

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### JUNIOR DUCK STAMP CONSERVATION AND DESIGN PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, for the past 20 years, the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Reauthorization Act has been one of the most successful government-sponsored, youth-focused conservation education programs. This dynamic program incorporates scientific and wildlife management principles into visual arts curriculum in both public and private schools. As a national program, children in all states have the opportunity to learn about bird conservation while simultaneously developing a strong appreciation for art.

I can attest to the success of this program and would like to congratulate the 2009 Wisconsin Federal Junior Duck Stamp competitors and, in particular, the 22 students from Wisconsin's Third District who placed in the contest. I am proud to say that of the over 600 entries from the 53 schools participating in the State of Wisconsin, the "Best of Show" went to Yvette Bauer of Ithaca Public School in Richland Center, located in my District.

The youth of today will become the leaders of tomorrow. We must therefore encourage our youth to become stewards of America's irreplaceable wild places and treasured outdoor heritage.

I strongly support the reauthorization of the successful Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program and look forward to seeing this bill passed in the House today.

### AIRLINE SAFETY AND PILOT TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concern with certain provisions of H.R. 3371, the Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009.

While I strongly support the goal of the bill to increase airline safety and improve pilot training, I am concerned about changing current rules to require an airline pilot to hold an Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) certificate, which necessitates a minimum of 1,500 flight hours. During a hearing in September Tim Brady, dean of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's College of Aviation, testified that these added requirements could increase the cost of pilot training fivefold from \$40,000 to \$200,000. I am concerned that these in-

creased costs could encourage pilots to seek less costly training alternatives and potentially be counter to the bills intended goal, of increasing safety.

By dramatically increasing the costs of training we will drive our most qualified potential pilots out of accredited flight schools such as the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences at the University of North Dakota that have produced exceptional pilots for decades. Graduates of these programs receive high quality flight instruction that is much more valuable than a pilot who might just be racking up straight and level flight time that has no increased educational or safety benefits. The focus on total flight hours rather than the quality of those hours will not provide the increased safety and pilot quality that is the goal of this legislation. It could in practice have the opposite effect, by driving students to undertake low value flying at the expense of high quality directed flight training. I believe that as this legislation moves forward some consideration must be given to Collegiate Aviation Programs that have been accredited by the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI). This will help to increase the focus of these requirements on quality of training rather than quantity of flight hours.

While I will be voting in favor of this legislation in order to move forward the important process of increasing the safety of commercial aviation, I do so with reservations. Before this legislation becomes law I believe that it is vital that the bill be modified to recognize the tremendous benefits that our nation's accredited flight schools provide.

### RECOGNIZING HOLLAND MAYOR ALBERT "AL" MCGEEHAN FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE HOLLAND CITY COUNCIL

**HON. PETER HOEKSTRA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to honor Holland Mayor Albert "Al" McGeehan for his years of selfless service on the Holland City Council.

Mayor McGeehan was born on Staten Island in New York Harbor in October 1944. He first moved to Holland to attend Hope College. He graduated from Hope College in June of 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and a Michigan Secondary Teaching Certificate.

With his educational preparation and certification, Mayor McGeehan began a teaching career in the Holland Public Schools that spanned five decades.

In the summer of 2004, President George W. Bush, while addressing a crowd of 15,000 Holland residents, shortened Mayor McGeehan to simply, Mayor "Al." The title better suited the Mayor and stuck like glue.

Mayor "Al" was first elected to city council in 1977 where he served four "four-year" terms as a Councilman-at-Large. He is now in his eighth term as mayor of the city.

As a teacher, Al McGeehan served as Chair of the Social Studies Department for Holland Public Schools. Upon his retirement, he worked as a morning radio talk show host for WJQ 1260 AM.

For three years, Al represented the Michigan Municipal League as the League's West Michigan Regional Coordinator. He has served on several committees of the Michigan Municipal League and the National League of Cities. From 2006 to 2008, Mayor "Al" served consecutive terms as President of the Michigan Association of Mayors.

The Mayor's passion for studying and collecting artifacts from the time of the American Civil War is well-known throughout Michigan and beyond. He has taught and lectured on the subject. He has authored a book and several magazine articles relating to the Civil War and he has been known to often occupy the very best parking spaces at local antique shops.

Mayor Al has been married to his wife Marsha for 45 years.

### ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of St. John Lutheran Church in Dieterich, IL.

On January 1, 1860, 14 men signed the constitution of St. John, a document that has continued to govern the church to this day. St. John is one of the oldest churches in the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

I would like to congratulate the members of St. John Lutheran Church for reaching this milestone and wish them a blessed and joyous celebration as they mark 150 years of service to God and their community.

### RECOGNIZING JOHN KEETON

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John Keeton of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. Mr. Keeton has been an outstanding Democratic activist for more than twenty years throughout Worcester County. An attorney in the Worcester area, Mr. Keeton's devotion to the pursuit of justice has portrayed his passions of human rights, social justice, and equality for all. In acknowledgement of his dedication, passionate beliefs, and hard work, Mr. Keeton has been selected to receive the 2009 Eleanor Roosevelt

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Humanitarian Award from the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee.

Raised in a family devoted to the ideals President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt espoused, John Keeton grew up with and advocated for such beliefs throughout his career as an attorney and political activist. Mr. Keeton, along with his wife Patricia, has been involved in campaigns for prominent figures such as Governor Deval Patrick and Hillary Clinton. I will be forever grateful for his friendship over the years.

Throughout his distinguished career, John Keeton has been involved in both the Westborough and Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committees. Having distinguished himself as the Chair of the Shrewsbury Town Committee, Mr. Keeton not only presided over a period of great success for the committee, but became widely recognized as a loyal and committed Democrat in Worcester County.

John Keeton's dedication to the principles of justice and Democratic ideals has worked to positively enhance Worcester County. His tireless efforts and activism is admired by many, including those who Mr. Keeton has campaigned for. In tribute to his outstanding efforts for the Democratic Committees throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I congratulate Mr. Keeton on receiving this award. I know my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to him today.

#### HONORING THE SOUTH TEXAS COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, the South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse was founded in 1990 by a group of concerned citizens who wished to address issues related to substance abuse; and

Whereas, October 15th is National Latino AIDS Awareness Day; and

Whereas, Latinos represent 15% of the U.S. population, but make up 18% of new HIV infections; and

Whereas, Latino women are infected with HIV at a rate of up to four times greater than other women; and

Whereas, citizens from Hebbronville, Zapata, Roma, Rio Grande established the South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse 19 years ago as a nonprofit agency; and

Whereas, the agency was created out of a grant from the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse to develop a Statewide Initiative Council for the four county regions consisting of Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb, and Zapata; and

Whereas, the South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse was established to provide screening, assessment, referrals related to substance abuse, and education services to the region for substance abuse; and

Whereas, the South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse has expanded its services to include HIV prevention, treatment, and Voces Fronterizas—an HIV prevention and intervention program from the CDC; and

Whereas, the South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse has expanded their role to encompass not only that of being a Clinical Training Institute but also providing intervention outreach studies to impoverished border communities like the colonias; and

Whereas, the South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse has served over 12,000 clients through HIV programs in the past 6 years; and

Whereas, the South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse has invested over \$1,000,000 annually on HIV programs; and

*Be it hereby resolved*, that Congressman HENRY CUELLAR, in representing the 28th Congressional District of the State of Texas, honors the contributions of the South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse for their exceptional service to South Texas communities.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, October 14th, I was unavoidably detained due to official business at the White House and was not present for a number of roll call votes.

Had I been present I would have voted:

"Yea" on Rollcall 776, H.R. 1327, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009.

"Yea" on Rollcall 777, H. Res. 816, mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that occurred on September 29, 2009, in American Samoa and Samoa.

"Yea" on Rollcall 778, H. Res. 786, commemorating the canonization of Father Damien de Veuster, SS.CC. to sainthood.

"Yea" on Rollcall 779, H.R. 3371, the Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MAHATMA GANDHI

SPEECH OF

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. I join my colleagues in celebrating the amazing life and accomplishments of Mahatma Gandhi. Through his fearless leadership in promoting civil rights and justice for the people of India, he demonstrated the power of non-violent civil disobedience to effect change. He has contributed immeasurably to the legacy of peace.

While I wholeheartedly support this resolution, the best way for this body to recognize Gandhi's accomplishments is to stop funding the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Stability in Iraq and Afghanistan cannot be achieved as long as war and occupation are the tools with which we purport to build peace. When the U.S. kills innocent civilians and destroys families, homes and communities, the results often incite fear and rage. After more

than 8 years of war in Afghanistan and more than 6 years of war in Iraq it is clear that lasting peace and stability cannot emerge from such beginnings.

Rather, stability is best fomented through the seeds of peace such as upholding human rights, promoting social and economic justice, and ensuring education, employment and access to basic goods and services. Regrettably, the billions of dollars of funding that this body has dedicated to the wars have devastated Iraq and Afghanistan. If this body wants to see peace and stability in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. must stop engaging in policies of aggression.

I strongly support this bill, the powerful accomplishments of the great Mahatma Gandhi, and urge my colleagues to honor his vision.

#### FORT MASSAC

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the unveiling of a commemorative mural at Fort Massac in Massac County, Illinois.

Fort Massac was built on the bank of the Ohio River in 1757 by the French during the French and Indian War. In 1794, during the Northwest Indian War, President George Washington ordered the fort be rebuilt. For the next 20 years Fort Massac protected U.S. military and commercial interests in the Ohio Valley.

In the fall of 1803, the Lewis and Clark Expedition stopped and recruited two volunteers at Fort Massac as they journeyed west. The Fort Massac site was designated a State Park in 1908, becoming the first Illinois State Park.

Every October, the Fort Massac Encampment draws 80,000 visitors to re-create the lifestyles and atmosphere of the late 1700s. As a part of this year's celebration on October 17th and 18th, the Fort Massac Museum is unveiling a mural depicting a restored cabin from the early 1800s. More than 100,000 visitors are expected to attend the celebration to take part in the mural unveiling.

I want to congratulate the volunteers, supporters, and everyone else who helped make this mural and museum such a great success. I wish them my best as they open this new exhibit to offer a glimpse into the fascinating history of the United States and Illinois.

#### IMMIGRATION LAWS WORK

#### HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the New York Times once again misses the mark with its latest immigration editorial, "Wrong Paths to Immigration Reform."

The Times wrongly suggests that the 287(g) program should be used only for serious criminals.

As one of the authors of the legislation that created 287(g), I can testify that Congress created 287(g) to let state and local law enforcement officials help enforce all immigration laws, not a select few.

When it comes to Sheriff Arpaio, the Times laments that his "raids use minor infractions like broken tail lights as pretexts for mass immigration arrests."

In fact, minor infractions can ensnare major bad guys. As the Times itself reported in another story, accused Dallas terrorist Hosam (Maher Husein) Smadi was pulled over for "a broken tail light" before he was arrested for terrorist activities.

This is a powerful reminder that enforcing immigration laws against all those who violate them can prevent crime.

#### RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS OTTAWA COUNTY CHAPTER ON 100 YEARS

**HON. PETER HOEKSTRA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to congratulate Ottawa County's Red Cross on such a significant milestone—100 years serving Ottawa County.

The American Red Cross of Ottawa County, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

The organization has helped people throughout the world, but closer to home it has provided residents of Ottawa County with tremendous help, whether it is emergency relief, offering health and safety classes or assisting active duty military personnel.

It is rightfully proud of its record in preventing and relieving suffering, offering community assistance and offering compassionate services across the board.

Most notably, it has facilitated in giving people the gift of life through countless blood drives every year. It is amazing that it is able to do all that it does with no taxpayer dollars, but by the generous donations of time, money and blood.

Moving into the next 100 years of dedication to Ottawa County, ongoing fundraising and community partnerships are crucial to the Red Cross's ability to serve.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the American Red Cross Ottawa County on its celebration of a century of success.

#### RECOGNIZING 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATLANTIC INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY ASSOCIATION

SPEECH OF

**HON. MIKE MCINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association, Date which has been fighting on behalf of our great Atlantic marine highway for 10 years.

The AIWA was formed in 1999 to address the declining condition of the Atlantic Intra-

coastal Waterway, running along the eastern seaboard from Virginia to Florida. A persistent lack of maintenance funding has resulted in severe shoaling of the waterway through many sections, rendering the waterway impassable at times. The AIWA has been a strong advocate for the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and the Association has earned the title "Voice of the Waterway".

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work closely with members of the AIWA over the years to secure funding to maintain North Carolina's portion of the waterway. The resolution on the floor before us today officially recognizes the contribution made by the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association and I am pleased to rise in strong support of it. I look forward to continuing to work with the AIWA and my colleagues in Congress to support the AIWA and to secure funding to dredge the waterway to its full authorized depth.

#### GASKIN CITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gaskin City Missionary Baptist Church, which celebrated its 100th anniversary this past August.

Pastor Andrew Yates and the congregation of 160 held its first service on August 21, 1909. Although the congregation is smaller today, its members still make an impact on both the local community and the mission field worldwide. Their commitment to service can be seen in many ways, such as singing at local care centers and retirement homes and sending pens to Botswana that are used to copy chapters from the Bible.

I would like to congratulate the members of Gaskin City Missionary Baptist Church for reaching this milestone and wish them a blessed and joyous celebration as they mark 100 years of service to God and their community, both at home and around the world.

#### SCHWEITZER ENGINEERING LABORATORIES CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories (SEL) and its founder, Dr. Edmund O. Schweitzer III, on the 25th anniversary of the lab's first sale from its headquarters in Pullman, Washington.

From its first delivery to the Otter Tail Power Company in Fergus Falls, MN in 1984, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories has grown to provide a variety of power management systems and automated networking devices that are capable of withstanding extreme electrical and weather conditions. Ed Schweitzer is a pioneer in the field of power protection, having invented the first all-digital protective relay. This device reduces the cost and

complexity of power protection. This digital technology can respond in milliseconds to system faults and keep millions of customers safely supplied with power.

The spirit of entrepreneurship is alive and well in Eastern Washington. Today, SEL continues to develop the next generation of energy-efficient technologies and to promote smart use of our nation's natural resources. The company is proud to be 100 percent employee-owned and to serve 126 countries, employing more than 2,000 people here at home and around the world.

Madam Speaker, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories and Ed Schweitzer represent the creative and bold nature of our country's innovators and the trailblazing spirit of the Inland Northwest in particular. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Schweitzer Engineering on twenty-five successful years in business and in wishing them many more successful, productive years to come.

#### HONORING MR. JERRY RASMUSSEN

**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Jerry Rasmussen, Principal of Dakota Valley High School in North Sioux City, South Dakota. Mr. Rasmussen was named South Dakota High School Principal of the Year by the MetLife/National Association of Secondary School Principals, NASSP, National Principal of the Year Program. This award recognizes the achievements of secondary school principals like Mr. Rasmussen who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession.

Mr. Rasmussen has proudly devoted 21 years to education, including 10 years as an administrator. Mr. Rasmussen is most proud of his efforts to create a caring, student-centered culture which permeates throughout the community in North Sioux City. Mr. Rasmussen's devotion to the success and well-being of all of his students and efforts to ensure that all are welcomed at school is an example readily followed by his fellow teachers and staff.

I send best wishes and congratulations to Mr. Rasmussen on this noteworthy honor and commend him for his years of service as an educator in South Dakota.

#### EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND SUPPORT TO INDONESIA IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE EARTHQUAKE THAT STRUCK SUMATRA

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 810 to express condolences to the people of

Indonesia for the tragic earthquake that struck the island of Sumatra on September 30, 2009.

This earthquake took the lives of more than 700 individuals, and many more are injured or remain missing. In addition to the loss of life, the infrastructure of this island was devastated, and this tragedy resulted in the destruction of roughly 80,000 houses, 200 public buildings, 285 schools and 20 miles of road. The Indonesian government has worked rapidly to get relief teams to Sumatra to find survivors, distribute food, and provide medical assistance, as well as assess damages and make preparations to rush in supplies.

Mr. Speaker, my most heartfelt condolences go out to the people of Indonesia and Sumatra for their suffering, and I join them in grieving. I urge my fellow colleagues to support H. Res. 810 for the people of Indonesia and to remember the victims of this terrible earthquake.

SAINT CECILIA'S CATHOLIC  
CHURCH 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 125th anniversary of St. Cecilia's Catholic Church in Bartelso, Illinois.

In the mid-nineteenth century immigrants of primarily German descent settled in the area. By 1880 there were about 75 Catholic families living in the vicinity, most of whom were members of St. Boniface Church. However, flooding of the Kaskaskia River and Shoal Creek made the roads leading to St. Boniface virtually impassable.

In 1884, St. Cecilia's Catholic Church was built to better accommodate the area's families. Building supplies were hauled from the surrounding area to the construction site by horse-drawn wagons. The project culminated in the beautiful church that is still one of the finest in Southern Illinois. The town of Bartelso flourished with the new attention that St. Cecilia's brought.

I would like to congratulate the members of St. Cecilia's Catholic Church for reaching this milestone and wish them a blessed and joyous celebration as they mark 125 years of service to God and their community.

IN HONOR OF INTERNATIONAL  
CREDIT UNION DAY

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance and many achievements of credit unions worldwide in celebration of the 61st annual International Credit Union Credit Day.

The difference credit unions make in the United States by providing affordable and safe financial services to many Americans of moderate means has been significant and widely recognized.

However, the contributions credit unions have made on an international scale are equally notable. Since the mid-1800s, credit

unions have established themselves in communities around the world struggling with social dislocation, political unrest and economic depression as a means to promote economic growth and democratic practices at the local level. Today, more than 54,000 credit unions provide financial services to more than 186 million members in 97 nations.

Credit unions make a difference on a global scale by providing access to affordable financial services for those who otherwise would have been excluded from the financial sector. Such financial services include the provision of small savings and loans, which enable some of the poorest individuals in the world to start their own microenterprises, improve household stability and stimulate growth in their communities. Credit unions are the largest source of these microfinance services in countries as diverse as Colombia, Kenya, Russia, Mexico, Thailand and Rwanda.

Credit unions are also at the forefront of expanding access to finance for people living in rural areas who can't afford the time or money it takes to visit a financial institution. Credit unions are working with the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) to introduce a variety of innovative technology solutions to bank the unbanked in rural areas. In Mexico, credit union officers carry hand-held personal digital assistant (PDA) devices to conduct financial transactions with members in communities located up to 90 minutes from the credit union office. In Kenya, Peru and Mexico, point-of-sale devices enable credit unions to partner with local merchants in rural areas, allowing members to deposit and withdraw money from their credit union accounts. Finally, mobile banking capabilities in Mexico will enable members to check their balances and transfer funds without leaving their homes.

In addition, credit unions throughout the world are filling the agricultural lending gap that has kept the vast majority of small farmers stuck in low-production, low-return cycles. In countries such as Peru, Kenya and Colombia, credit unions are taking an integrated, value-chain approach to financing that includes access to agricultural training and markets for farmers to sell their products. As a result, farmers are not only increasing their incomes and producing more food for their families, they are also playing a role in securing their nations' food supply.

Credit unions have also contributed to post-conflict rebuilding of societies and economies in war-torn countries. WOCCU has been on the ground in Afghanistan since 2003, working with communities at the grassroots level to form the country's first credit unions and rural financial system. Afghan credit unions are known as "Islamic investment and finance co-operatives" in order to comply with Islamic lending practices. They are playing a powerful role in communities, bringing together people from different tribes to work together to finance the individual needs of each other and those of the community through reconstruction projects. In Helmand province, for example, access to credit provides poppy farmers with the opportunity to start a new life by growing alternative crops such as paprika. This will have an impact on the overall security and stability of the region.

As democratically owned and operated not-for-profit financial cooperatives, credit unions also contribute to the democratization of societies. The one-member one-vote principle of

credit unions is often the first vehicle for local expressions of democratic participation. In many countries, credit unions lead economic democratization, a step closer to political democratization by providing economic security and sustainability and exposing lower-income communities to free-market principles and democratic values that will help eradicate terrorism at its roots.

U.S. credit union members, staff and leagues, along with CUNA and the United States government, support the global work of credit unions and WOCCU. Through WOCCU's International Partnerships Program, 25 U.S. credit union leagues are matched with developing credit union movements overseas to encourage the direct transfer of technology, skills and experience among peers across borders.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the work of credit unions, both domestically and internationally, for providing vital financial services that improve the lives of people demonstrating the greatest need around the world. By providing the world's poor with the most basic financial services, credit unions help expand job opportunities, improve local economies and promote democracy. In short, credit unions offer a sustainable development solution to some of the world's poorest countries, and this is the "credit union difference."

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE SAINT BENE-  
DICT PAROCHIAL SCHOOL IN  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Saint Benedict Parochial School in Richmond, Virginia.

Saint Benedict Parochial School has been serving the Richmond area since 1919 when it opened on the corner of Grove and Belmont Avenues. Classes were temporarily held in the convent, which was moved just a few years later to make room for the proposed school building. An addition to the school was built in 1949 after an increasing number of students outgrew the existing school.

Today, Saint Benedict Parochial School continues to offer a traditional education in a faith-filled environment to both elementary and middle school students. Along with language arts, mathematics, social studies and science, religion is also taught as one of the core subject areas. In fact, the school motto is *Ut in Omnibus Glorificetur Deus*, or in other words, "So that in all things God may be glorified!"

In addition to concentrating on their education, Saint Benedict students spend countless hours serving the community. Once a month, students prepare and deliver bagged lunches to the homeless. They also collect canned food for the Central Virginia Food Bank, and have worked to raise money for organizations like the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as well as a school in the greater Richmond area that was facing the possibility of closing.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Saint Benedict Parochial School as it celebrates its anniversary and wishing the students and staff the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING HENRY J. "CHIP"  
SCHIRESON

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Henry J. "Chip" Schireson who is completing his 25th year of dedicated public service as a Magisterial District Judge in Lower Merion, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

While efficiently administering a court that averages 1,000 filings each month, Judge Schireson has made a tremendous commitment to positively impacting the youth in the community. His efforts include establishing an innovative and award-winning public service program at Bryn Mawr Hospital, which allows juvenile offenders to serve others to avoid a criminal record. That is just one example of how Judge Schireson utilizes creative sanctions to change the attitudes of offenders and, in some cases, help turn around lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the Honorable Henry J. "Chip" Schireson as he celebrates this memorable milestone and honor his extraordinary dedication to making Lower Merion a great place to live, work and raise a family.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CROCKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, this year marks the 50th Anniversary of William H. Crocker Middle School in Hillsborough, California.

Crocker Middle School has been recognized as a California Distinguished School seven times, most recently in 2007, and is one of only three schools in the entire nation to be awarded a National Blue Ribbon for Secondary Schools on four occasions. Among the school's many other rewards, in 1993, Crocker was named to the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Science's "Top Five World Class Schools."

Crocker Middle School has served the community by constantly reviewing and improving its curriculum and continually striving for academic excellence. The newest addition to the Crocker campus is a building housing a state-of-the-art studio for Hillsborough Television (HTV), band and music instruction rooms, a lecture hall modeled after facilities at Harvard University, and much needed classrooms. This completed a ten year Hillsborough School District renovation project.

Madam Speaker, William H. Crocker Middle School has educated my own children, Jackson and Stephanie, so I can vouch first-hand

to its excellence and the caring and passion of its incredible staff. In addition to strong academic programs in English, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign language, and physical education, Crocker offers electives in the arts and personal development skills such as leadership and public speaking.

The entire Crocker School family believes strongly that its role is to help each child build a foundation that will serve her or him for their entire life. Every aspect of its educational curriculum is designed to build a close, caring community in which every child and every adult is recognized and respected.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a William H. Crocker Middle School parent and I salute Crocker's longtime principal, Janet Chun, who has been a beacon of expanded learning that includes a strong community service component. She follows in the impressive footsteps of her predecessors, Fred Schwartz, Carl Zon, Marilyn Loushin Miller, Dan Kreuzer and Larry Raffo, all of whom deserve our recognition and our gratitude. I congratulate everyone in the Crocker community for half a century of academic and community achievement.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF  
THE CITY OF COMMERCE'S 50  
YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Commerce and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating its residents on the city's 50th Birthday. I am proud to represent this unique city—aptly characterized by its motto, the "Model City"—as part of my 34th Congressional District of California.

While we honor the city's 50 years of official incorporation, the exciting story of the founding and growth of one of Southern California's leading industrial cities dates back to 1810 when a humble Spanish soldier acquired a Spanish land grant that included the present-day City of Commerce.

The city's industrial roots began to take hold from 1871 to 1912 when the land's then-owner, Arcadia Bandini, leased the property to the railroads and other developers—a move that would make the landowner one of the wealthiest women in California.

One of the first industrial manufacturing plants established in the area was a brickyard, the 350 acre Simons Company Plant No. 3. The bricks were used to construct Royce Hall at UCLA, Disney Studios in Burbank and to rebuild San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake.

During the Roaring 20s, Commerce grew from a region of rural farms crisscrossed with a few roads and rail lines into a rail and transportation center and a promising location for heavy industry close to Downtown Los Angeles. During the following decades, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, B.F. Goodrich, U.S. Rubber, the East Los Angeles Rail Station, Chrysler Corporation, Ford and U.S. Steel located manufacturing plants in Commerce and solidified the city's reputation as an industrial center.

Commerce remained both a rural and industrial area until the late 1950s when the construction of the Long Beach and Santa Ana

freeways ushered in a post-war era of rapid suburbanization. As the community grew, residents determined to avoid higher property taxes and improve city services established the Citizens Committee for Incorporation with the help of local business leaders. On January 28, 1960, the community was granted a certificate of incorporation and became the 67th city in Los Angeles County.

Fifty years later, the City of Commerce is still flourishing. It is a diverse community of more than 13,000 people and 1,700 businesses.

To keep up with the changing times, the city successfully brought about the diversification and transformation of the city's industrial base throughout the 1970s and 80s. Today, the city maintains much of its manufacturing and goods-distribution base while successfully converting former industrial land to lucrative commercial uses like the Citadel outlet mall, which occupies the site of the U.S. Rubber tire factory.

The city, however, retains its small town appeal by providing an unmatched range of programs and services. The city operates an award-winning library system, four city parks, a fare-free public transit service and a camp in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Through the city's commitment to providing recreational opportunities to area youth, the city takes pride in producing numerous state and national champions, including two members of the 2008 Olympic Silver Medal United States Women's Water Polo Team and one member of the United States Boxing Olympic Team.

Commerce also remains committed to improving the environment and reducing emissions from trains, trucks and stationary sources of air pollution and is in the process of building a Liquid Natural Gas/Compressed Natural Gas fueling station for eco-friendly vehicles.

The City of Commerce will mark its 50th Birthday in 2010 with a series of community events throughout the year, including its annual Cake Cutting, July 4th Celebration, Miss Commerce Pageant, and Summer Safety Fair.

I am honored to recognize this historic milestone in this city's rich history.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Commerce's first 50 years as this vibrant community continues to live by its motto the "Model City" and work toward a prosperous future.

TESTIMONIAL ON SUSAN G.  
KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE  
FOUNDATION AND BREAST CAN-  
CER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I stand today as a proud cosponsor of a resolution honoring Nancy Goodman Brinker, founder of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation.

This October marks the 25th anniversary of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the 27th anniversary of Komen for the Cure.

In the Palmetto State, breast cancer occurs in over five thousand women a year and kills

over one thousand, but according to the American Cancer Society, these numbers have been falling since the 1990s.

However, there is always more to be done and we can all get involved in promoting breast cancer awareness.

This Sunday is the 16th Annual Komen Lowcountry Race for the Cure in Charleston, and I congratulate our local affiliate staff, Lindsay Wiltshire, Michelle Temple, Lucy Spears, Taffy Tamblin and Patricia Simon for their hard work organizing this event.

Their efforts bring us all closer to the ultimate goal of a world without breast cancer and we are very proud of them and all of their efforts in the First District.

#### A TRIBUTE TO GREEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LADY DRAGONS GOLF TEAM

#### HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Green County High School Lady Dragons Golf Team on their outstanding performance this season.

On October 10, 2009, the team won Green County High School's first KHSAA Girls State Golf Championship, bringing statewide attention to their school.

Under the leadership of Coach Rick Davis, the Lady Dragons remained steadfast throughout the tournament weekend and shot an impressive two-day total of 113-over par to win the tournament by six shots.

To reach the state championship tournament, the Lady Dragons won the 4th Region Title on September 29, 2009, in a two-hole playoff, defeating Glasgow High School, the defending state champion.

The Lady Dragons' performance is a testament to their hard work and dedication. I want to congratulate team members Sydney Agee, Cassidy Scantland, Leah Rose Judd, Olivia Parrott, Sydney Smith, and Kate Larimore and Coach Rick Davis and wish them nothing but the best in their future endeavors.

#### MARITIME WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker I rise before you today in support of H.R. 2651, the "Maritime Workforce Development Act". I would like to thank my colleague, Rep. CUMMINGS, for introducing this act, as well as the co-sponsors.

This bill would amend Title 46 of the United States Code to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a student loan program to attract the next generation of workers to the good paying jobs available in the maritime industry. The loan program will also help those already in the industry obtain the certifications and training they need to move ahead in their careers.

According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, in 2006, there were more than 38,000 on-the-water jobs in sea, coastal, and Great Lakes transportation, and nearly 23,000 in the inland water transportation industry. Many of those who currently work in the industry are nearing retirement age. Thus, the Maritime Administration indicated that at the time of our hearing, the average age of a mariner with a Master's license was 51 while the average age of a Chief Engineer was 50.

Additionally, significant new standards for training and continuing education have been applied to mariners through the 1995 amendments to the Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping. These standards have rightly been set to improve safety in the maritime industry by reducing human factors as the causes of maritime accidents but they have also imposed expensive and time-consuming training requirements on mariners—particularly on those who are looking to upgrade a document or license to move up the career ladder.

While there are many facilities in the United States that provide outstanding training programs for those seeking to enter or advance in the maritime field, tuition can be very expensive. Further, the types of training programs in which mariners enroll are unique—and are not easily served by existing loan programs. Mariners who have already begun their careers rarely enroll in 2- or 4-year educational programs. Instead, they typically enroll in multi-week courses to obtain a specific new certification—and they enroll in such courses several times a year.

This bill provides a loan program to individuals in the maritime industry that is tailored to their specific needs and to the types of training programs that serve them. Using the model of existing student loan programs, it creates a maritime-focused student loan program through which individuals can receive up to \$60,000 in loans over the course of a lifetime. This grant program would support the growing number of maritime-themed educational institutions—including high schools—throughout the country as they work to expand maritime education opportunities and attract new individuals to a field critical to the success of our national economy.

The bill also authorizes the appropriation of \$10 million in each of fiscal years 2010 through 2015 to support loans. Additionally, this legislation authorizes the appropriation of \$10 million in each of fiscal years 2010 through 2015 to enable the Department of Transportation to award grants to maritime training institutions to support their efforts to develop and implement programs to address mariner recruitment, training, and retention issues.

#### HONORING THOMAS AND THELMA ZEKOS

#### HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my good friends the late Thomas and Thelma Zekos of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. Mr. and Mrs. Zekos inspired those that knew them, dedicating their service

to the advancement of the local community. In acknowledgement of their devotion and commitment to the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee, the annual Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Awards are being dedicated in their memory.

Tom and Thelma were proud to make Shrewsbury their home knowing it was an excellent place to raise a family. They wanted the best for their children and instilled in them strong values and believed a quality education was absolutely essential. Their formula for a bright and successful future was to work hard and play by the rules.

Mr. and Mrs. Zekos were inspiring and impassioned Democrats. They believed their family would be best served by supporting candidates who espoused Democratic principles. Throughout their 50 years of marriage, they worked tirelessly for an array of Democratic candidates. They always went the extra mile. I will be forever grateful to them for their support and friendship over the years.

Tom and Thelma Zekos's dedication and commitment to a strong work ethic and moral values made an impact on our community. In tribute to their outstanding service to the community of Shrewsbury and to the Democratic Party, I am proud to honor the memory of Tom and Thelma with the dedication of the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Awards to them. I know all my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to them both today.

#### RECOGNIZING 100 YEARS OF MILITARY AVIATION

SPEECH OF

#### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 445, a resolution recognizing 100 years of military aviation and expressing continued support for the military aviators of the United States Armed Forces.

Military aviators have had a long history of defending our nation at home and abroad, as well as supplying humanitarian assistance throughout the world. From the very first military purchase of the Wright Military Flyer in 1909, we have been privileged as a nation for the service of the world's best aviators, as well as the finest platforms in which they fly. In fact, the most technologically advanced fighter jet in the world is the F-22A Raptor—proudly manufactured in the 11th District of Georgia which is my honor to represent. Throughout both World Wars, the Vietnam War, and Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, aviators have been a critical component to successful combat from establishing air superiority to providing invaluable logistical and intelligence support to the Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, we must take a moment to recognize the communities around the nation that lend support to these aviators and their families. Again, I am proud to mention Marietta, Georgia, which is in my district and is home to Dobbins Air Reserve Base. The 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins is part of the Air Force Reserve Command and provides the Department of Defense with exceptional C-130 Hercules training and combat-ready units ready to

deploy on short notice to support more than 10,000 guardsmen, reservists, and civilians at the world's largest joint air reserve base.

With our military engaged in two wars, this chamber must take the opportunity to express thanks to all of our military aviators and other troops abroad who have defended our homeland and the values and ideals we espouse as a nation. I believe that the brave men and women who sacrifice for our present freedoms deserve our fullest support. Our nation's service men and women represent the best our country has to offer, and they must be treated with the respect and honor they deserve. As we ask these courageous soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines—and their families—to do more and more, it's only right we continue doing all we can for them. Recognizing 100 years of military aviation is just one reminder of the superior job our troops perform for America at home and abroad, and it is my hope that we will continue to do all we can and more for the members of our Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

#### HONORING THE OFFICE OF PARKS AND RECREATION, CITY OF OAK- LAND

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Year Anniversary of the City of Oakland's Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR). On July 25th, at an Old Fashion Community Celebration at deFremery Park, local families, sports enthusiasts and nature lovers celebrated what has been accomplished in one century: 100 parks, 2,500 acres of open space, 26 recreation and community centers, and the innumerable rewarding activities Oakland residents enjoy because of them.

In 1909 both the Playground and Park Commissions were formed. During the Playground Commission's first meeting, they allocated \$600 for a vacation program at two school grounds and established a Playground Division under the Department of Public Works. One year later, the first municipal playgrounds opened at the deFremery, Bushrod and Bayview sites. The City also issued a million-dollar bond to purchase lands around Lake Merritt.

Today, we recognize the true worth of those initial investments. In addition to offering recreation services in athletics, science, art, aquatics, boating, gardening, music, and culture, Oakland's parks help foster a sense of community ownership. One OPR motto, "Play with a Purpose," illustrates an important point. It reminds us that healthy, outdoor play is an essential part of our wellbeing and personal growth.

Over the last 100 years, Oakland Parks have transformed, mirroring the rich culture and history of the surrounding community: In 1932, Oakland's first Municipal Rose Garden opened its doors; the deFremery recreation center housed servicemen in December of 1941, nine days after the Pearl Harbor attacks; a camp for children with disabilities and

a Senior Citizen program were created in 1948, and ten years later, the award-winning Arroyo Viejo Children's Theater opened, but succumbed to fire in 1970.

There have been Japanese Gardens, golf courses, children's folk dance festivals and choruses. Children's Fairyland, visited by Walt Disney while he developed his Disneyland concept, was the first theme park in the nation designed for small children. But, during inevitable change, one constant has remained: Oakland Parks' steadfast accessibility to people of all ages, abilities and interests.

The variety and scope of Oakland Parks' community participation is vast. For example, OPR recreation centers host Radical Roving Recreation programs that provide social, health and life skills development for underserved young people. The Golden State Warriors basketball team Makin' Hoops Program helps to renovate basketball courts and provides athletic services. On a national scale, the U.S. Olympic Trials for canoe and kayak flatwater sprint were held at Lake Merritt in 2004.

This year, Lakeside Gardens also celebrates its 50th anniversary and OPC intends to return the gardens to their original splendor. Oakland has much to look forward to as the Office of Parks and Recreation continues its commitment to beautify the city and engage park visitors in a shared civic pride.

I am confident that exciting partnerships and programs such as these will continue to thrive under the guidance of OPR's excellent leadership. In the next 100 years, the City of Oakland, partnering with the Office of Parks and Recreation, will continue to encourage community values, physical activity and personal development through the beauty of its open spaces.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 775, 776, 777, 778, and 779, I was not present due to a family commitment in Pennsylvania. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on 775, "yea" on 776, "yea" on 777, "yea" on 778, and "yea" on 779.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JUDGE GARLAND HOWARD

#### HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Former Daviess Circuit Judge Garland Howard, a true Kentuckian. Mr. Howard is well-known in the Owensboro community as a valued leader, visionary and hard-worker.

Mr. Howard, who had been Daviess County Master Commissioner since 1985, was appointed to the circuit judgeship by Governor Paul Patton in 1995.

His passion and love for the Ohio River was expressed through his development projects, which inspired and led the way for growth and expansion in Owensboro.

Even though Mr. Howard gave so much of himself to his community, the love he gave to his wife Mary Ann and to his children was unparalleled. Mr. Howard passed away on October 7, 2009. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Howard family.

Garland Howard will forever be remembered by the amazing legacy he leaves behind through the lives he touched, the projects he created and the children who he taught by example to be community leaders in their own right.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF VIETNAM WAR VETERANS EVENT

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on September 12, 2009, the Honorable EMANUEL CLEAVER, Congressman from Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, sponsored a remarkable event at the Truman Library. This event was in honor of those who fought in the Vietnam War in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Well over 1,000 veterans attended. The Honorable DENNIS MOORE, Congressman from Kansas's Third Congressional District, spoke, and yours truly had an opportunity to deliver a message of gratitude to the Vietnam veterans present. The keynote speaker was Major General (Ret.) Robert H. Scales, former commandant of the U.S. Army War College. His address was very well received by the veterans in the audience. The address is as follows:

[Sept. 12, 2009]

TRUMAN LIBRARY SPEECH

(By MG (Ret.) Robert H. Scales)

Mr. Skelton, Mr. Cleaver, distinguished guests and, most importantly, fellow veterans. What a great thrill it is to see my comrades in arms assembled here so many years after we shared our experiences in war.

Let me give you the bottom line up front: I'm proud I served in Vietnam. Like you I didn't kill innocents, I killed the enemy; I didn't fight for big oil or for some lame conspiracy I fought for a country I believed in and for the buddies who kept me alive. Like you I was troubled that, unlike my father, I didn't come back to a grateful nation. It took a generation and another war, Desert Storm, for the nation to come back to me.

Also like you I remember the war being 99 percent boredom and one percent pure abject terror. But not all my memories of Vietnam are terrible. There were times when I enjoyed my service in combat. Such sentiment must seem strange to a society today that has, thanks to our superb volunteer military, been completely insulated from war. If they thought about Vietnam at all our fellow citizens would imagine that fifty years would have been sufficient to erase this unpleasant war from our consciousness. Looking over this assembly it's obvious that the memory lingers, and those of us who fought in that war remember.

The question is why? If this war was so terrible why are we here? It's my privilege today to try to answer that question not only for you, brother veterans, but maybe for a wider audience for whom, fifty years on, Vietnam is as strangely distant as World War One was to our generation.

Vietnam is seared in our memory for the same reason that wars have lingered in the



minds of soldiers for as long as wars have been fought.

From Marathon to Mosul young men and now women have marched off to war to learn that the cold fear of violent death and the prospects of killing another human being heighten the senses and sear these experiences deeply and irrevocably into our souls and linger in the back recesses of our minds.

After Vietnam we may have gone on to thrilling lives or dull; we might have found love or loneliness, success or failure. But our experiences have stayed with us in brilliant Technicolor and with a clarity undiminished by time. For what ever primal reason war heightens the senses. When in combat we see sharper, hear more clearly and develop a sixth sense about everything around us.

Remember the sights? I recall sitting in the jungle one bright moonlit night marveling on the beauty of Vietnam. How lush and green it was; how attractive and gentle the people, how stoic and unmoved they were amid the chaos that surrounded them.

Do you remember the sounds? Where else could you stand outside a bunker and listen to the cacophonous mix of Jimi Hendrix, Merle Haggard and Jefferson Airplane? Or how about the sounds of incoming? Remember it wasn't a boom like in the movies but a horrifying noise like a passing train followed by a crack and the whistle of flying fragments. Remember the smells? The sharpness of cordite, the choking stench of rotting jungle and the tragic sweet smell of enemy dead . . .

I remember the touch, the wet, sticky sensation when I touched one of my wounded soldiers one last time before the medevac rushed him forever from our presence but not from my memory, and the guilt I felt realizing that his pain was caused by my inattention and my lack of experience.

Even taste is a sense that brings back memories. Remember the end of the day after the log bird flew away leaving mail, C rations and warm beer? Only the first sergeant had sufficient gravitas to be allowed to turn the C ration cases over so that all of us could reach in and pull out a box on the unlabeled side hoping that it wasn't going to be ham and lima beans again.

Look, forty years on I can forgive the guy who put powder in our ammunition so foul that it caused our M-16s to jam. I'm OK with helicopters that arrived late. I'm over artillery landing too close and the occasional canceled air strike. But I will never forgive the Pentagon bureaucrat who in an incredibly lame moment thought that a soldier would open a can of that green, greasy, gelatinous goo called ham and lima beans and actually eat it.

But to paraphrase that iconic war hero of our generation, Forrest Gump, "Life is like a case of C Rations, you never know what you're going to get." Because for every box of ham and lima beans there was that rapturous moment when you would turn over the box and discover the bacchanalian joy of peaches and pound cake. It's all a metaphor for the surreal nature of that war and its small pleasures . . . those who have never known war cannot believe that anyone can find joy in hot beer and cold pound cake. But we can . . .

Another reason why Vietnam remains in our consciousness is that the experience has made us better. Don't get me wrong. I'm not arguing for war as a self improvement course. And I realize that war's trauma has damaged many of our fellow veterans physically, psychologically and morally. But recent research on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder by behavioral scientists has unearthed a phenomenon familiar to most veterans: that the trauma of war strengthens rather than weakens us (They call it Post Trau-

matic Growth). We know that a near death experience makes us better leaders by increasing our self reliance, resilience, self image, confidence and ability to deal with adversity. Combat veterans tend to approach the future wiser, more spiritual and content with an amplified appreciation for life. We know this is true. It's nice to see that the human scientists now agree.

I'm proud that our service left a legacy that has made today's military better. Sadly Americans too often prefer to fight wars with technology. Our experience in Vietnam taught the nation the lesson that war is inherently a human not a technological endeavor. Our experience is a distant whisper in the ear of today's technology wizards that firepower is not sufficient to win, that the enemy has a vote, that the object of war should not be to kill the enemy but to win the trust and allegiance of the people and that the ultimate weapon in this kind of war is a superbly trained, motivated, and equipped soldier who is tightly bonded to his buddies and who trusts his leaders.

I've visited our young men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan several times. On each visit I've seen first hand the strong connection between our war and theirs. These are worthy warriors who operate in a manner remarkably reminiscent of the way we fought so many years ago.

The similarities are surreal. Close your eyes for a moment and it all comes rushing back . . . In Afghanistan I watched soldiers from my old unit, the 101st Airborne Division, as they conducted daily patrols from firebases constructed and manned in a manner virtually the same as those we occupied and fought from so many years ago. Every day these sky soldiers trudge outside the wire and climb across impossible terrain with the purpose as one sergeant put it "to kill the bad guys, protect the good guys and bring home as many of my soldiers as I can." Your legacy is alive and well. You should be proud.

The timeless connection between our generation and theirs can be seen in the unity and fighting spirit of our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Again and again, I get asked the same old question from folks who watch soldiers in action on television: why is their morale so high? Don't they know the American people are getting fed up with these wars? Don't they know Afghanistan is going badly? Often they come to me incredulous about what they perceive as a misspent sense of patriotism and loyalty.

I tell them time and again what every one of you sitting here today, those of you who have seen the face of war, understand: it's not really about loyalty. It's not about a belief in some abstract notion concerning war aims or national strategy. It's not even about winning or losing. On those lonely firebases as we dug through C ration boxes and drank hot beer we didn't argue the righteousness of our cause or ponder the latest pronouncements from McNamara or Nixon or Ho Chi Minh for that matter. Some of us might have trusted our leaders or maybe not. We might have been well informed and passionate about the protests at home or maybe not. We might have groused about the rich and privileged who found a way to avoid service but we probably didn't. We might have volunteered for the war to stop the spread of global communism or maybe we just had a failing semester and got swept up in the draft.

In war young soldiers think about their buddies. They talk about families, wives and girlfriends and relate to each other through very personal confessions. For the most part the military we served with in Vietnam did not come from the social elite. We didn't have Harvard degrees or the pedigree of po-

litical bluebloods. We were in large measure volunteers and draftees from middle and lower class America. Just as in Iraq today we came from every corner of our country to meet in a beautiful yet harsh and forbidding place, a place that we've seen and experienced but can never explain adequately to those who were never there.

Soldiers suffer, fight and occasionally die for each other. It's as simple as that. What brought us to fight in the jungle was no different than the motive force that compels young soldiers today to kick open a door in Ramadi with the expectation that what lies on the other side is either an innocent huddling with a child in her arms or a fanatic insurgent yearning to buy his ticket to eternity by killing the infidel. No difference. Patriotism and a paycheck may get a soldier into the military but fear of letting his buddies down gets a soldier to do something that might just as well get him killed.

What makes a person successful in America today is a far cry from what would have made him a success in the minds of those assembled here today. Big bucks gained in law or real estate, or big deals closed on the stock market made some of our countrymen rich. But as they have grown older they now realize that they have no buddies. There is no one who they are willing to die for or who is willing to die for them. William Manchester served as a Marine in the Pacific during World War II and put the sentiment precisely right when he wrote: "Any man in combat who lacks comrades who will die for him, or for whom he is willing to die is not a man at all. He is truly damned."

The Anglo Saxon heritage of buddy loyalty is long and frightfully won. Almost six hundred years ago the English king, Henry V, waited on a cold and muddy battlefield to face a French army many times his size. Shakespeare captured the ethos of that moment in his play Henry V. To be sure Shakespeare wasn't there but he was there in spirit because he understood the emotions that gripped and the bonds that brought together both king and soldier. Henry didn't talk about national strategy. He didn't try to justify faulty intelligence or ill formed command decisions that put his soldiers at such a terrible disadvantage. Instead, he talked about what made English soldiers fight and what in all probably would allow them to prevail the next day against terrible odds. Remember this is a monarch talking to his men:

This story shall the good man teach his son;  
From this day ending to the ending of the world,

But we in it shall be remembered;

We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;

For he today that sheds his blood with me  
shall be my brother;

And gentlemen in England (or America) now  
a-bed

Shall think themselves accursed they were  
not here,

And hold their manhood's cheap whiles any  
speaks

That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's  
day.

You all here assembled inherit the spirit of St. Crispin's day. You know and understand the strength of comfort that those whom you protect, those in America now abed, will never know. You have lived a life of self awareness and personal satisfaction that those who watched you from afar in this country who "hold their manhood cheap" can only envy.

I don't care whether America honors or even remembers the good service we performed in Vietnam. It doesn't bother me that war is an image that America would rather ignore. It's enough for me to have the privilege to be among you. It's sufficient to



talk to each of you about things we have seen and kinships we have shared in the tough and heartless crucible of war.

Some day we will all join those who are serving so gallantly now and have preceded us on battlefields from Gettysburg to Wanat. We will gather inside a firebase to open a case of C rations with every box peaches and pound cake. We will join with a band of brothers to recount the experience of serving something greater than ourselves. I believe in my very soul that the almightily reserves a corner of heaven, probably around a perpetual lager where some day we can meet and embrace . . . all of the band of brothers throughout the ages to tell our stories while envious standers-by watch and wonder how horrific and incendiary the crucible of violence must have been to bring such a disparate assemblage so close to the hand of God.

Until we meet there thank you for your service, thank you for your sacrifice, God bless you all and God bless this great nation. . . .

# EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES DEALING WITH TROPICAL STORM KATSANA AND TYPHOON PARMA

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important resolution. Tropical Storm Katsana caused horrible suffering to the people of the Philippines and wreaked havoc on their communities. Just six days later, Typhoon Parma brought additional death and destruction to the region.

I extend my deepest sympathies to those who have lost friends and loved ones in these natural disasters. My thoughts and prayers are with them.

On October 2nd I sent a letter to President Obama regarding the devastation in the Philippines caused by Katsana. I urged swift action to provide aid to the already devastated region especially in light of the proximity of Typhoon Parma.

I would like to submit this letter for the record, as well as a letter from the UN General Assembly in response to my request.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, October 2, 2009.*

Hon. BARACK OBAMA,  
*President of the United States,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I write to request your immediate assistance and intervention in speeding humanitarian aid to the people of the Philippines who are suffering from the effects of Tropical Storm Katsana. As you know, Tropical Storm Katsana hit Manila and rest of the Philippines on September 26, 2009, causing a disaster.

I have just spoken by teleconference with an Akron, Ohio businessman, Mathew Freeman, who is currently in Manila. Mr. Freeman, through the cooperation of Channel 5 in Cleveland, has shared with me a gripping personal account of the situation on the ground in Manila: there is no evidence of any aid reaching the people. Survivors are without shelter, food and water as another series of storms are quickly approaching.

I understand that the Department of Defense is providing assistance with logistics in the region and that today a relief flight delivered aid for 20,000 affected individuals. I further understand that the U.S. has committed an additional \$1 million of aid money to the region, which I applaud. Nevertheless, first hand accounts indicate that additional efforts to expedite humanitarian aid must be made and made immediately. The situation is desperate and countless lives are at risk. As such, I urge you to accelerate delivery of additional humanitarian aid to the region.

I appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,  
*Member of Congress.*

THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
*October 12, 2009.*

Hon. DENNIS J. KUCINICH,  
*Member of Congress of the United States, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUCINICH: I am writing to thank you for showing urgent concern for the victims of the tropical storm Katsana in the Philippines. I value your efforts to alleviate the suffering of the two and a half million people affected by the storm and to raise awareness of the situation in the Philippines.

As you know, the United Nations has launched a flash appeal to support the Government of the Philippines in responding to the effects of the storm. The flash appeal is seeking \$74,021,809 and involves the international humanitarian community, including NGOs, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations agencies. So far the flash appeal has received \$11 million in funding and an additional \$433,119 in pledges.

I am pleased to note that the United States have contributed \$650,000 to the United Nations flash appeal, in addition to other funding for relief operations. I am convinced that your valuable efforts on behalf of the victims of Katsana, have contributed to the timely and generous support from the United States.

Sincerely,

ALI ABDUSSALAM TREKI.

## A TRIBUTE TO BERNHEIM FOREST

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bernheim Forest and their recent recognition from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Bernheim Forest Arboretum Visitors Center in Clermont, Kentucky won two of EPA's Lifecycle Building Challenge awards for a professional building and for a building with the best greenhouse gas reduction.

EPA's Lifecycle Building Challenge recognizes innovative green building ideas that reduce environmental and energy impacts. Reusing building materials assists the building industry in reducing more than 88 million tons of building-related construction and demolition debris that are typically sent to landfills in the United States each year.

The Bernheim Forest Arboretum Visitors Center incorporates the surrounding forest into the building's design. The staff and board at

the Bernheim Forest are committed to our natural environment and this visitor's center is a solid example of that commitment.

Construction of the center emphasized safe materials made of biological nutrients, which break down to safely return to forest soil, as well as technical nutrients, which can be remanufactured into new objects.

I congratulate the work of the individuals who made this building a reality and honor the staff and board at Bernheim Forest, whose passion for the environment make it possible for Kentuckians to connect with nature.

## TRIBUTE TO BRIAN BURKE

**HON. JOHN CAMPBELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Brian Burke, Executive Vice President and General Manager of the Anaheim Ducks Professional Hockey Team from 2005 to 2008. Mr. Burke is one of Orange County's most dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizens. Born in Providence, Rhode Island, and raised in Edina, Minnesota, Brian resides with his wife Jennifer and has six children: Katie, Patrick, Brendan, Molly, Mairin and Gracie.

In 2007, Mr. Burke guided the Anaheim Ducks to the first Stanley Cup Championship in California history, and in 2008 he received two outstanding honors: On June 6th, he was chosen by USA Hockey as General Manager of the 2010 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team, and on August 7th he was named a recipient of the 2008 Lester Patrick Award for outstanding service to hockey in the United States. Burke is also the General Manager of the 2009 USA World Championships Team.

Madam Speaker, Brian Burke is an American citizen with a passion for supporting the United States military. Mr. Burke organized a first-of-its-kind two-day event to support the families of active duty military personnel at the Honda Center in 2008. The event, which included Ducks' players and their families, welcomed "Operation Homefront"—a non-profit organization that provides emergency assistance and morale to our troops, the families they leave behind, and injured soldiers upon their return home. Brian also supported the "Wounded Warriors Project," a non-profit organization that assists severely wounded soldiers to transition back into life when they suffer from serious and traumatic injuries. To recognize our Wounded Warriors and the United States Marines, Brian Burke and the Anaheim Ducks delivered the Stanley Cup for its first ever visit to Camp Pendleton in 2007.

Mr. Burke has also been very involved in Orange County charities. He has served as a Board Member on the Board of Directors for the Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) as well as supported and donated to the Orangewood Children's Foundation, Share Ourselves and the Children's Bureau. Brian also promoted cancer awareness in the Orange County community by launching "Hockey Fights Cancer" nights at Ducks' games.

I know Mr. Burke's family is extremely proud of his accomplishments, as am I. He has worked tirelessly to improve his community and his efforts should be emulated by future community leaders.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Brian Burke today as an outstanding American citizen and community leader.

**HONORING MICHAEL LOUIS  
VONBEHREN**

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Michael Louis VonBehren of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. At Michael's young age he already symbolized what we all hope to be. He actively exhibited enthusiasm for academics, for community service and for the Democratic Party. In acknowledgement of his commitment and dedication to the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee, this year's annual Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Youth Award is dedicated in his memory.

Michael VonBehren was an engaging young man who loved the democratic process. Michael was a student at Shrewsbury High School where he was involved in clubs such as Young Democrats, Political Action Group, and Model U.N. Although he was involved in various clubs and organizations, he still found the time to serve his community. Michael was a caring and kind young man who loved to help those that were less fortunate. He read to homeless children at a local shelter and was a talented video producer at his high school.

Michael VonBehren was one of those rare teenagers that crossed normal boundaries and surrounded himself with those that shared his interests and beliefs whether they were his peers or a fellow volunteer on the campaign trail. There is no way of knowing what Michael would have done in the future. All that is sure is that he would have made a difference in our world. Michael was an exemplary student and citizen who showed others kindness and enthusiasm everyday of his life.

Michael's unfaltering commitment to fairness and justice and his dedication to public service greatly benefitted our community. In tribute to his outstanding service to the community of Shrewsbury, I am proud to honor the memory of Michael Louis VonBehren with the dedication of the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Youth Award to him. I know all my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to him today.

**A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL CHARLES  
E. WILLIAMS, JR.**

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Charles E. Williams, Jr., who has virtuously served the United States and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Colonel Williams was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1986 upon his graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. During his career he has served both at home and overseas and as Military Aide to both President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush.

On October 1, 2007, Colonel Williams assumed command of the U.S. Army Special Missions Brigade at Fort Knox, Kentucky. As the Commander, he oversees the In-Service Recruiting of Special Operations, Warrant Officers and Chaplains, as well as the Logistics and Administrative Support for 1600 recruiting stations across the country.

Colonel Williams' decorations are numerous. Throughout his career he has been an inspiration and example to both soldiers and civilians alike. He has represented his country proudly as a man of honor and a true patriot.

After years of dedicated service, Colonel Williams has decided to retire. I honor him today because of his dignified and steadfast commitment to the citizens of this country and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

**IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
WILLIAM J. MCCARTHY**

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of William J. "Bill" McCarthy, a U.S. Navy Veteran who was devoted to his family and friends. His leadership and work on behalf of the American laborer continues to strengthen and protect workers' rights throughout the Cleveland community.

Mr. McCarthy was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, where he later raised his own family. In 1956, he met and married the late Margaret J. Pawlak. Together they had four children: Marge, Kelly, William and Kevin. Their children, ten grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the most important part of their lives.

Following his honorable discharge from the Navy, Mr. McCarthy began working as a meter reader with East Ohio Gas Company. He quickly ascended the union ranks to become one of the most powerful and effective labor leaders in Cleveland. He represented thousands of workers at East Ohio Gas, and led numerous strikes that won significant concessions in wages, benefits and safety improvements for workers. He was known for never giving up or backing down from what he believed was just and right. Mr. McCarthy's work on labor issues extended throughout Northeast Ohio, where he forged strong bonds with labor leaders, elected officials and workers. He served as Chairman of the AFL-CIO, President of the Ohio Joint Council of the Service Employees International Union, vice-president of Union Eye Care and as a board member with the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of William J. "Bill" McCarthy, who had an unwavering devotion to his family and country, and whose work on behalf of workers' rights will continue to reinforce the labor foundation of the Cleveland community. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Mr. McCarthy's daughters: Marge and Kelly; his sons, William J. Jr. and Kevin; his ten grandchildren; his great-granddaughter; and his sister, Noreen.

**A TRIBUTE TO JACQUES  
GUILLAUME**

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jacques Guillaume, MD, for his record of extraordinary service to New York's Tenth Congressional District.

Dr. Jacques Guillaume was born in Haiti, studied both law and medicine at the State University of Haiti, then continued his studies here in the United States. Here he has combined his twin passions—law and medicine—to address the inequalities of justice and the inadequacies of health care in low-income communities. Dr. Guillaume has also held several managerial positions in the medical field, including Director of the Residency Training Program at the Catholic Medical Center, Director of OB/GYN at Mary Immaculate Hospital and St. Joseph. He currently serves as the Chair of the Gynecology Department at the Interfaith Medical Center.

Dr. Guillaume is a recognized leader in the OB/GYN community, publishing many articles in peer-reviewed journals. He frequently appears on television and radio programs to discuss health conditions. He clearly has a strong love of science and a real sense of justice.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Jacques Guillaume.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

**CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF  
UNITED STATES-POLISH DIPLO-  
MATIC RELATIONS**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 266, which celebrates 90 years of the United States-Polish diplomatic relations, during which Poland has proven to be an exceptionally strong partner to the United States in advancing freedom around the world. I support this resolution because Poland is an important ally, partner, and friend to the United States.

My home town of Houston, Texas has a strong connection with Poland. Texas has long been an important destination for Polish people immigrating to the United States. In 1818 a handful of Polish immigrants arrived in Texas seeking refuge from turmoil in Europe. Immigration from Poland increased in the 1850s as severe weather, economic hardship, a food shortage, and disease spurred people to seek better fortunes elsewhere. Texas received another wave of Polish immigrants in

the 1870s on the heels of political turmoil in Poland.

According to the Texas State Historical Association Houston there were 55,000 people of Polish descent in Houston in 2000. Aspects of the Polish culture are important to Houston's heritage and are celebrated in our annual Polish Festival and Polish Film Festival. Houston is also the home to a Polish consulate. I am proud to support this resolution as an acknowledgement of Houston's enduring ties with Poland.

The relationship between the United States and Poland was first formally established in the wake of World War I. In 1919, the U.S. and the newly-formed Polish Republic established diplomatic ties creating a formal relationship between governments that also served to symbolize the shared cultural heritage. Twenty years ago, communism fell in Poland and was replaced with a democratic government and market economy. While the relationship between the U.S. and Poland was at times difficult under communism, the spirit of mutualism and desire for cultural exchange endured. The Fulbright Educational Exchange Program began in Poland in 1959 allowing students from both sides of the Iron Curtain to maintain and grow our shared heritage.

In the 20 years since the fall of communism, Poland has also developed into a strong ally for our country. In 1999, Poland joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, cementing our shared military interest. Poland has been a strong diplomatic and military ally in our struggle against terrorism across the globe by contributing troops to U.S.-led coalitions. Poland has also demonstrated its close ideological relationship with the United States through joint efforts on democratization, nuclear proliferation, human rights, Eastern European affairs, and reforming the United Nations. The United States and Poland have a strong relationship and I am proud to support this resolution celebrating the 90 years of diplomatic relations.

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**“FRIENDS OF THE FISHING  
INDUSTRY”**

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I have never learned more in my life than I have learned since 1992 when at the vote of the Massachusetts Legislature, the city of New Bedford and the town of Fairhaven were included in the congressional district I represent. These two communities together form the most successful fishing port in the U.S., and that industry enriches New Bedford and the surrounding areas not just economically but culturally and socially as well.

One of the leaders in that industry is Jim Kendall, a fisherman himself who has served in a number of important posts in helping preserve that industry and protect it against adversity.

He recently wrote an eloquent introduction to the announcement of the Friend of the Fishing Industry Award, which was presented to two men to whom the Greater New Bedford Area is greatly indebted: Raymond and Richard Canastra.

These two brothers have, as Jim Kendall's statement points out, been extremely creative in providing support for this industry. The work they have done for the open display auction confounded many skeptics who thought that it would never work, but their success in New Bedford has in fact been so widely hailed that it's led to the recent opening of a similar facility in Boston, helping revive a fishing port that had been declining to some extent.

Madam Speaker, I join Jim Kendall and others in the fishing industry and subsidies in Massachusetts in thanking Ray and Richie Canastra for their work and I ask that Jim Kendall's statement be printed here as an example of the kind of economic leadership individuals can provide to their community.

OFFSHORE MARINERS

WIVES' ASSOCIATION,

*September 27, 2009.*

**INTRODUCTION OF 2009'S “FRIENDS OF THE  
FISHING INDUSTRY”**

This year's award to the Friend of the Fishing Industry is a bit different as we are proud to announce that the award is going to not just one, but two individuals. Not only have they contributed to the fishing industry here in New Bedford, but their efforts have extended throughout New England.

It's not often that you find two people who have come so far in a relatively short period of time, and who have returned so much to the industry that they obviously care so much about. Their innovation and foresight has not only proven to be a sound business venture for them, but a boon and stabilizing factor for the Greater New Bedford fishing fleet. It hasn't stop there either, their fortitude and determination now has extended to the ports of Gloucester and Boston.

They pioneered the concept of the open display auction here in New Bedford at a time and place when many of us doubted it could succeed. In 1985 through 1986 the industry had gone through a traumatic strike that changed the way business had been done for many years. The New Bedford seafood auction ceased to exist, and a buyers auction that replaced it, had also closed its doors. The industry was in turmoil, with little or no sense of balance that had existed for years before. The sale of a trip was as hard and as uncertain, as was the fishing trip itself.

They felt that an open display auction could work and benefit the fishermen, and the port of New Bedford, and they set about to prove it. It wasn't easy, it never is trying to convince people that there is a better way to do their business, business that they had been doing in basically the same way for years. They have proven that they were right, and the New Bedford fishing industry has benefited greatly because of it. The auction has provided stability to the sale of fresh fish and scallops, along with the recognition that New Bedford is still the port to go to for your best seafood.

Their efforts in beginning the auction and the continued developments, have helped the port of New Bedford regain the title of the richest fishing port in the country, and continues to help us maintain that distinction.

Recently they opened another display auction in the port of Boston, that is attracting fishing vessels to a port that was all but abandoned by the fishing industry. This is in direct contradiction to what has been occurring elsewhere, with the devastating changes for other ports that have lost not only their auctions, but their fishing industries and communities.

Their involvement has deepened over the years with them becoming deeply involved with the management process and fishery

science. Working with, most notably, Drs. Brian Rothschild and Kevin Stokesbury from the School for Marine Science and Technology at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. They have also helped to organize the fishermen not only here in New Bedford, but in Gloucester as well.

What may turn out to be one of their most important innovations is the Project to Save Seafood and Ocean Resources, along with its associated website, [Savingseafood.org](http://Savingseafood.org).

At a time when information is king, providing factual and unadulterated information to the American public is crucial. There is a desperate need to show the American consumer the value of New Bedford seafood, and the efforts that the New Bedford and New England fishermen have taken in order to provide them with healthy seafood. There is also a need to inform the consumer how we are striving to provide them their healthy seafood in a safe and sustainable manner. The American consumer and public also needs to know what the fishermen and their industry has gone through in order to bring this to them. I encourage you to visit the website at [www.savingseafood.org](http://www.savingseafood.org).

Richie lives in North Dartmouth, with his wife Roberta, and their two lovely daughters, Sophia, and Noella. Raymond lives in Rochester with his wife Debbie and their two children Cassie and Kyler.

It gives me great pleasure to present “The Friend of the Fishing Industry Award” to two men whom I'm proud to have worked with over the years, my friends; Raymond and Richard Canastra.

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**A TRIBUTE TO JACK LEFKOWITZ**

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jack Lefkowitz for his record of extraordinary service to New York's Tenth Congressional District.

Jack Lefkowitz is the President and Chief Executive Officer of New York MedScan, providing high quality diagnostic imaging services in a comfortable hospital outpatient environment. He greatly contributes to the quality of life for Brooklyn's neediest patients, working through the organization Yad Ephraim to prepare and deliver home-cooked meals tailored to the needs of each patient. Mr. Lefkowitz chairs Maskil El Dat, providing financial aid, meals, transportation, babysitting, and emotional support for impoverished Jewish families. I applaud Jack Lefkowitz's philanthropic activities, contributing both professionally and privately in our communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jack Lefkowitz.

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**CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HAR-  
LEM'S BELOVED THORNTON J.  
MEACHAM, JR., ESQ. A TRAIL-  
BLAZER FOR AFRICAN-AMERI-  
CANS, LAWYERS AND LEGAL  
PROFESSIONALS**

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise with great pride as I pay tribute to my dear friend

and life-long buddy, Thornton J. Meacham, Jr., Esq., as we celebrate one of Harlem's greatest legal advocates at the great Cathedral of Riverside Church in Harlem today. As I speak with profound honor and respect for my friend Thornton, I ascend to celebrate a life well-lived and to also remember the many legal professional accomplishments of this remarkable man. Thornton Meacham etched his name in history as a passionate and dedicated legal advocate for all African-American lawyers and legal professionals throughout this city and Nation.

Thornton's death on October 4, 2009, brought immense sorrow and loss to me, his family, his friends, and to the countless lives he touched over the years in our beloved community. I am blessed to say that I was able to have spent some time with Thornton during his final days. As we said our good-byes, he left in my heart a reminder of all the many exciting moments of his life and all of the good times we shared together. He was undisputedly one of Harlem's greatest lawyers, largely responsible for blacks being admitted to the New York Bar Association. This strong-willed and exciting man represented Harlem in all of its glory, and we are all consumed by his passing.

Thornton J. Meacham, Jr. was born on March 10, 1917 in Terrell, Arkansas as the first son to Dr. Thornton J. Meacham and Lila Celesta. His younger brother, Dr. Henry Wade Meacham, who also had an outstanding professional career passed away in 2004. After the family moved to Jackson, Tennessee, Thornton attended public school and graduated from Lane College. Upon his graduation from college, Thornton was accepted to attend law school at Harvard University, Columbia University and New York University, but chose to attend Fordham University, thus becoming the second African American to attend Fordham University and the first to graduate from its Law School in 1942.

Just a few years ago, we all celebrated Thornton's 66th Anniversary of his graduation from Fordham Law School. He loved Fordham Law and dedicated his entire life to helping young aspiring jurists succeed.

Admitted to the Bar in 1943, Thornton set the mark that raised the bar for all of us. He was the first Black attorney to join the legal staff of the Office of Price Stabilization on Broadway in New York; first to argue a case before the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; first African American to be featured on the cover of *The New York Law Journal*; first to try both criminal and civil cases in the Bronx and Queens County Courts; and the first to open a law practice in Harlem.

Thornton always spoke of his experiences in the 1950s when the New York City Bar Association refused him membership due to his race. During segregation, he tried and won cases in Florida, North Carolina, Virginia and New Jersey. He represented Hulan Jack, Congressman Adam C. Powell, Dorothy Dandridge, Louis Armstrong, Bessie Buchanan, Mile Davis, the NAACP and Carver National Bank—a legacy of history that makes us all proud to be Americans.

Thornton Meacham was Counsel to the law offices of Assemblyman William T. Andrews, Judge Harold Stevens and Attorney John Briggs. He later became a Law Partner to Judge Thomas Dickens. Thornton, along with

some of Harlem's elite class of attorneys, co-founded the Harlem Lawyers Association, which later merged into the Metropolitan Black Bar Association.

Thornton Meacham was a very active member of the National Bar Association (NBA) and was acknowledged as a legal dignitary by the organization on several occasions. He was a recipient of the NBA Wiley A. Branton Issues Award and in 1994, he was inducted into the prestigious National Black Association Hall of Fame, which recognizes lawyers who have practiced for over 40 years and have made significant contributions to the cause of justice. Thornton was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the Williams Institutional Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Harlem.

Meacham's extraordinary accomplishments as a revered legal professional exemplified the pioneering leadership of many through his commitment and exemplary service to the legal community. He will long be remembered for his extraordinary commitment, humor, liveliness, energy, wisdom, discipline, principle and clear purpose which won the admiration of all who were privileged to come to know and work with him during his distinguished career.

Madam Speaker, I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to observe and experience his example as a personal inspiration. Though Thornton is no longer with us, we will continue to keep his memory alive in our hearts and minds, and continue to honor his legacy with our advocacy for the issues he cared about the most.

#### HONORING MILDRED ROSS BEAN

##### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Mildred Bean of Walnut Creek, California. A proud wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. "Millie" was exemplary in her unconditional familial devotion, diligent work ethic, dedicated national service, and her love of arts and travel. With her passing on May 27, 2009, we look to Millie's family to remind us of her life's journey and the joyful legacy she inspired.

Mildred Ross was born on January 30, 1934 in Sacramento, California. After graduating high school, Millie began local secretarial work for the government. As her family fondly tells it, Millie's long love story with Air Force officer Richard "Dick" Bean began when he spotted her in a red party dress. The two were soon married and embarked on a military career that would span the next two decades.

Over the following ten years, Millie and Dick raised their three young children on Long Island, New York's Suffolk County Air Force Base. After a brief assignment in North Carolina, the family moved to Clark Air Force Base located in the Philippines.

It was there that Millie and her family had the great joy of spending two years stationed together with her sister Laura Brown, Laura's husband Joe, and their four children. Millie also enjoyed her time abroad by cultivating a love of travel. She and Dick were able to visit

Singapore, Bangkok, Saudi Arabia, India, Spain, and Thailand during their time in Southeast Asia.

The family eventually returned to California for their last assignment on Travis Air Force Base. After Dick retired as an Air Force Lieutenant Colonel in 1973, the couple built their dream home in Walnut Creek. When the Bean's two eldest children had left for college and their youngest was a high school sophomore, Millie returned to work and decided to pursue a college degree herself.

While working full time, Millie graduated Cum Laude from the University of San Francisco with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Millie then began a respected career with the Alameda Naval Air Station where she earned numerous awards, including the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, the highest honor given by the Navy to a civilian. At the time of her retirement in 1996, Millie had contributed 27 years of service to the Navy and was a GM-13 Performance Review Division Head.

In the midst of many accomplishments, Millie was quick to remind others that she was most proud of her children, Tony Bean, Kimberly Perry, and Laurie Adams. Millie's highest priority was to nurture and enjoy her extended family, which grew as her children married their spouses and gave Millie and Dick five beautiful grandchildren.

I have known Millie for many years. Her generosity, her friendship and her beautiful smile will forever be etched in my heart. She was a consistent supporter and encouraged me every step of the way. I cherished her friendship and will miss her tremendously.

After retirement, Millie and Dick enjoyed season tickets to the symphony and ballet, travel adventures in Europe and Asia, weekend getaways in Cannel, and a final vacation to Hawaii that Dick will forever treasure. Millie's joy for life was not only contagious, but an invaluable lesson to her loved ones in times of uncertainty and doubt.

Always social and active, Millie kept a monthly lunch date with friends and enjoyed taking her grandchildren to the Nutcracker Ballet. Undoubtedly, the countless small and subtle acts of love that Millie demonstrated in her lifetime will continue to be powerful gifts to the people she cherished most.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a great human being, our beloved Millie Bean. We extend our deepest condolences to Millie's husband and family. Thank you for sharing her great spirit with us. May her soul rest in peace.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, on October 14, 2009, I was unable to cast votes, due to personal reasons. I was not present for roll-call votes 775 through 779. Had I been present, I would have casted a "yea" vote for final passage of H. Res. 768, Expressing support for the designation of the month of October as "National Work and Family Month"; H.R. 1327, Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009; H. Res. 816, Mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that

occurred on September 29, 2009 in American Samoa and Samoa; H.R. 3371, Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009 and H. Res. 786, Commemorating the canonization of Father Damien de Veuster, SS.CC. to sainthood.

A TRIBUTE TO EDOUARD  
GUILLAUME

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Edouard Guillaume, MD, for his record of extraordinary service to New York's Tenth Congressional District.

Dr. Edouard Guillaume was born in Gonaives, Haiti, studied medicine at the University Hospital of Haiti, and completed his formal training in Internal Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital in Chicago, Illinois and Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. He currently focuses on hematology and oncology. Dr. Guillaume today heads Interfaith's acclaimed Comprehensive Sickle Cell Program, where he is well known as a "pain specialist". He was honored by the Sickle Cell Thalassemia Patients Network (SCTPN) in 2005 for his dedicated and distinguished service to patients affected with the disease.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Edouard Guillaume.

GIRL SCOUTS USA  
COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 621, the Girl Scouts USA Centennial Commemorative Coin Act. The Girl Scouts of the USA is an outstanding organization dedicated to nurturing young women in the leadership skills they will undoubtedly utilize in their futures.

Founded in 1912 in Savannah, GA by Juliette Gordon, Girl Scouts of the USA has unanimously carried out its mission to "build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place." In fact, this organization has grown very large over its 97 year history to include 3.7 million Girl Scouts, 2.7 million girl members, and 928,000 adult members who serve as volunteers. Further, Girl Scouts has become a global organization including 236,000 troops and groups in over 90 countries.

Girl Scouts are known nationwide for their delicious cookies; however, this organization does much more than baking for the lives of young women. While various activities and youth groups teach basic skills and promote teamwork, Girl Scouting goes beyond that and encourages youth to achieve a deeper appre-

ciation for service to others in their communities. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Girl Scouting promotes activities that lead to personal responsibility and high self-esteem. As a result, when hard decisions must be made, peer pressure can be resisted and the right choices can be made.

Madam Speaker, from the beginning of the Girl Scout program as a Daisy to the eventual completion of the program and attainment of the rank of Ambassador, Girl Scouts of the USA has long trained young women in the necessary skills that will enable them to be the future leaders of the United States. The young women in this organization complete "journeys" that enlighten them on social issues, promote community service, and instill in them the necessary confidence and courage to have a bright and successful future. I applaud the efforts and the accomplishments of all of our nation's Girl Scouts, and specifically those of the 11th District of Georgia, which is my privilege to represent in Congress. I urge all of my colleagues to continue to support this honorable organization and the excellent young women that it continues to produce.

THANKING PEYTON JEFF JACKSON  
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on May 15, 2009, we rise to thank Mr. Peyton "Jeff" Jackson for his 31 years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Jeff has served this great institution as a valued employee of House Information Resources (HIR), within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Jeff began his tenure with the United States House of Representatives in 1978 as Lead Computer Operator in the HIR Communications Services group. Jeff assisted in diagnosing and resolving operational problems with the various online systems supported by the Computer Center. He also monitored and maintained all House data communication networks including the Amdahl 4705 and 4745 front-end processors. Jeff tracked and logged trouble calls from both the Washington and district offices and dispatched network installation technicians for problem calls. Jeff's expertise contributed to the installation and maintenance of the IBM 3270 inventory and storage facilities for the Communications Services group. Jeff continued to provide network operational support to the ever expanding networking and unified communications infrastructure environment.

Jeff has played an integral role in the re-vamping of the Network Control Center (NCC) following the events that occurred on September 11, 2001. The NCC was later expanded to encompass the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) which serves as a transmission point for emergency action messages to the House community.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Jeff for his many

years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives.

WALTER YENT, JR.

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the life of Walter Yent, Jr. for his exceptional service to our country and devotion to his family and friends.

Born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, Walter Yent, Jr. enlisted in the Army on March 6, 1944. A World War II Veteran, Mr. Yent was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, two Bronze Stars, and the Army of Occupation Medal with Germany clasp, in addition to many other medals for his outstanding service as a member of the Armed Services.

Upon his discharge from the Army in January 1950, Mr. Yent returned to his hometown of Baltimore where he enjoyed spending time with those he loved most, his family and friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the life of Walter Yent, Jr. His dedication to our country is an inspiration to all and deserves the utmost gratitude.

A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA MESSIER

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Barbara Messier for her record of extraordinary service to New York's Tenth Congressional District.

Barbara Messier, born in Canton, Ohio, graduated from the St. Luke Nursing School in Cleveland and began her nursing career in the Apple Creek State Hospital. While at Apple Creek, she first got experience in psychiatric nursing, working under a group of extraordinary leaders in the field. She continued her work in psychiatric nursing after moving to New York, working with Dr. Jochanan Weisenfreund at St. John's Episcopal Hospital and later at the Interfaith Medical Center.

Mrs. Messier was instrumental in revitalizing Interfaith's Department of Psychiatry from an unlicensed, 25-bed inpatient unit, to a full fledged, top-quality department. As the Assistant Vice President of the Department of Psychiatry, she is also responsible for Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Mental Health Center's programs, serving patients in a variety of innovative capacities. She also serves as the Clerk of Session at the Oceanside Presbyterian Church, and teaches adult Bible classes there.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Barbara Messier.

A BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO DR. MELVIN E. BANKS, FOUNDER OF URBAN MINISTRIES, INC.

## HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today it is my distinct honor and privilege to rise to acknowledge and congratulate one of my state's unsung jewels. Seventy-five years ago today, on October 15, 1934, Melvin E. Banks was born into this world in the, then, relatively small town of Birmingham, Alabama. From his humble beginnings in the segregated South, through hard work, perseverance and an abiding faith in God, today, Melvin Banks presides over the strong and thriving Urban Ministries, Inc., the largest independent African American-owned Christian publishing company in the United States.

UMI is located in Calumet City, Illinois, and this global, family-operated business is a vital part of our state's thriving, south suburban community. With all of the accolades and accomplishments that Dr. Melvin Banks has rightfully earned over the years, I stand here, tonight, Madame Speaker, simply proud to call him my friend.

Melvin Banks' life story is uniquely American. He often tells the story of discovering his faith in his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, at the age of 12. Even at that young age, his sense of faith and guidance was so strong that he accepted his personal call to minister the gospel to all who would listen. His evangelism began, literally, on some of the dusty back roads of Birmingham. One day, young Melvin encountered an elderly gentleman who recognized his spiritual gifts and referred him to a scripture that influenced his life's work. That scripture, Hosea 4:6, states, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Upon hearing those words, young Melvin knew that God's purpose for his life was to help spread the knowledge of the gospel of Christ through the unique, cultural lens of the African American experience. And from that moment on, Melvin Banks' dreams and life's work continued to grow and to prosper.

As Melvin Banks grew in the Lord, he also embraced the value of a good education. Banks graduated from Parker High School in Birmingham, in 1952, and he went on to study at the Moody Bible College, in Chicago, where he graduated in 1955. Continuing his education, Banks attended Wheaton College, earning a B.A. degree in theology, in 1958, and his master's degree in biblical studies in 1960.

After graduation, Dr. Banks chose to remain in Chicago and he soon got a job with Scripture Press Publications, a job that included sales. Dr. Banks' work with Scripture Press gave him his first opportunity to begin to understand how to market to African American consumers. It was that passion to serve his community coupled with his godly vision, professionalism and drive that ultimately led him to launch Urban Ministries, Inc., in 1970.

After founding Urban Ministries, Dr. Banks and his small staff operated out of the basement of his home for 12 years. As Dr. Banks' faith grew, so did his media ministry. In 1982, Urban Ministries occupied the second floor of a building located at 1439 West 103rd Street in Chicago. Guided by a vision that continues to serve him well to this day, Dr. Banks moved

Urban Ministries, in 1996, to its current 46,000-square-foot headquarters in Calumet City. Shortly before that milestone, it's worth noting that, in 1993, his alma mater, Wheaton College, conferred its esteemed graduate with an Honorary Doctorate in Literature, a recognition of his consummate stewardship over the written and published word.

And so, Madam Speaker, as I enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on this day, it's my pleasure to note these words from UMI's website:

UMI is the largest independent, African American-owned and operated Christian media company. UMI publishes Christian resources, including Christian education and Vacation Bible School curricula, books, movies and websites designed for African American churches and others seeking a diverse, Christ-centered perspective on faith and life issues.

Today, UMI is the largest, independent African American Christian publisher in the United States. UMI, literally, serves thousands of churches nationwide with curriculum resources, teaching materials, videos and other products aimed at instilling character in the youth and adults of our nation.

Madam Speaker, today, more than 10,000 churches utilize UMI materials, on a weekly basis, and a dozen different denominational groups call UMI their publishing partner—a distinction that gives this Illinois-based company its national and global impact.

Madam Speaker, for the more than 50 years that Dr. Melvin Banks has been a citizen of our great state, I'm proud to report that he has also been a devoted husband to his wife and business partner, Olive Banks, and the father to his children, Melvin Banks, Jr., Patrice Banks Lee and Reginald Banks, all of whom have worked with their father to help make this company the global leader it is today.

As I conclude this well-deserved tribute, let me also say that as my heart breaks for the thousands of children in this nation whose lives are cut short because of violence and unrealized dreams, my hope is that as these words enter the permanent annals of history that some young boy or girl will look upon these words and be inspired by the tremendous life of Dr. Melvin E. Banks.

My hope is that they will see in his life the hope, the determination and the abiding faith that God gave him. While every child may not have all the spiritual gifts that Dr. Banks enjoys, my hope and prayer is that they will see in his life what a made up mind can do.

## PROJECT MEND-A-HOUSE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

## HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Project Mend-A-House and its twenty-five years of service to the citizens of Prince William County, the City of Manassas and the City of Manassas Park.

A joint effort between private citizens and the Prince William County government, Project Mend-A-House was created in 1984. At the time, Lily Blackwell was a volunteer delivering meals to seniors who were confined to their homes due to disabilities. Her call to action began with the observation that a number of

seniors along her delivery route could no longer perform necessary home repairs. Basic home repair and some structural improvements were needed to ensure that these disabled seniors remained safe and independent. Ms. Blackwell partnered with Toni Clemons-Porter and Lin Wagener of the Prince William Area Agency on Aging to create the foundation of an organization that has now provided humanitarian assistance for a quarter of a century.

Project Mend-A-House completes home repairs and safety modifications to facilitate independent living for seniors, the disabled and low-income residents. Over the years, projects have ranged from fixing termite damage in an older home to making entire houses more accessible with wheelchair ramps, hand rails, shower seats and transfer benches. The work is truly a community effort. Local corporate partners provide monetary support, volunteers and building materials. Civic associations and faith based groups contribute hundreds of volunteer hours to Project Mend-A-House each year. Project Mend-A-House puts everyone to work regardless of skill level to improve the quality of life for our disabled, elderly and low income neighbors.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Project Mend-A-House and its volunteers. The strength of a community can be measured by how it responds to the plight of the less fortunate, and Project Mend-A-House is certainly contributing to a robust spirit of community in Prince William County.

## WEST PAPUA'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

## HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support submitted by Tom Beanal, Chairman of the Papua Presidium Council, in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

PRESIDIUM DEWAN PAPUA, JAYAPURA,  
OCTOBER 7, 2009.

Hon. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA,  
Rayburn House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FALEOMAVAEGA, on behalf of the people of West Papua, we are writing to express to you our greatest sympathy for the losses and sufferings of the people of American Samoa and other Pacific Islands caused by the recent tsunami.

Please accept our sincerest condolences to you. Please also extend them to your people. We are with you all in our hearts, tears, and prayers.

With God's grace, may you, our dear Congressman, and the people of American Samoa, find the strength to endure in this tragic tragedy.

TOM BEANAL,  
Wakil Ketua.  
HERMAN AWOM,  
Moderator.  
THAHA MOHAMMAD  
ALHAMID,  
Sekretaris Jenderal.



IN HONOR OF DR. J.H. FLAKES

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. J.H. Flakes of Columbus, GA, who on Sunday, October 18, will celebrate his 48th year as the Senior Pastor of the Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus. I have known Reverend Flakes for many years and feel honored to call him a friend, a constituent, and an inspiration.

Reverend Flakes was born in Phenix City, AL, and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from American Baptist College in Nashville, TN. He continued his biblical studies at Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, GA, the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education in Houston, TX, and the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia in Rome, GA. In addition, he has received an honorary doctorate from A.B. Lee Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, FL, and an honorary doctorate degree from his alma mater, the American Baptist College.

As the Word says in Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Reverend Flakes has truly lived by this principle. Since his arrival at Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church, he has sought to implement the church's mission to "obey the will of God through preaching, teaching, witnessing, stewardship and fellowship."

Reverend Flakes has received numerous awards and recognitions to honor his steadfast commitment to his parishioners and his community, including the Outstanding Personality of the South, Ten Outstanding Ministers in the State of Georgia, the Alpha Phi Alpha Martin Luther King Award, Operation PUSH Martin Luther King Award, as well as the Knighthood Award from the Congress of Christian Education.

With ordained leadership and divine grace, Reverend Flakes has built a church that delivers God's message and works daily to implement God's vision. Reverend Flakes personifies the love of God through his teaching and his way of life. I thank him for his years of service to his parishioners, the Columbus community, Georgia's Second Congressional District, and the Nation. Moreover, I wish him many more fruitful years to come.

**RECOGNIZING THE VITAL ROLE  
FAMILY READINESS VOLUNTEERS  
PLAY IN SUPPORTING  
SERVICEMEMBERS AND THEIR  
FAMILIES**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H. Res. 408, "Recognizing the vital role family readiness volunteers play in supporting servicemembers and their families". I would like thank my colleague, Representative

DAVIS, for introducing this resolution, as well as the co-sponsors.

Since 2001, nearly 2,000,000 active duty and reserve sailors, soldiers, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guard personnel have deployed for duty in the battlegrounds of Afghanistan and Iraq. To add to this service, the more than 1,800,000 family members of regular component members of the Armed Forces and an additional 1,100,000 family members of reserve component members make significant sacrifices on behalf of the United States in support of their loved ones deployed overseas.

But while the readiness of the United States Armed Forces is predicated on the ability of each member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard to focus on their mission during deployments, this military necessity of long and often unpredictable deployments, frequent relocations, and infrequent family contact for members of the Armed Forces can be extremely challenging for members and their families.

In response to these sacrifices and challenges, family readiness volunteers from each branch of the Armed Forces have stepped forward to provide critical support during deployments to servicemembers and their families. These programs in each service help commanding officers have a better understanding of the welfare of the families within his or her command during a deployment and allow families to be informed about the status of their loved ones' unit overseas.

The thousands of family readiness volunteers are generally spouses of members of the Armed Forces who provide assistance to military families while also enduring the challenges of military life. They consist of Army Family Readiness Volunteers, Navy Ombudsmen, Coast Guard Ombudsmen, Air Force Key Spouse Volunteers, and Marine Corps Key Volunteers. These volunteers are motivated by the desire to improve the lives of other military families and to assist future generations.

Family readiness volunteers also connect the community with military families and local military installations, often leveraging donations and resources for military families, as well as provide their services on a voluntary basis, with little public recognition and financial assistance, and often contribute their own resources to help other military families.

It is no exaggeration to say that the outstanding performance of our servicemembers is a testament to the great success of family readiness volunteers. That is why I join this distinguished body in recognizing and honoring the family readiness volunteers of each branch of the Armed Forces who selflessly devote their time, talent, energy, and resources in service to the United States and commend family readiness volunteers for their dedicated contributions to the quality of life of members of the Armed Forces and their families.

**RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA STOP  
MODERN SLAVERY**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Virginia Stop Mod-

ern Slavery (VASMS) and its efforts to educate parents, teachers and child-care providers on the danger sex trafficking poses to our communities.

VASMS was established in August of 2009 by Jessica Johnson of Annandale, Va. Its volunteers work to preserve safe, family friendly communities. They work to eliminate human trafficking in America by educating and supporting victims' service providers, legislators and local law enforcement officials. Members of VASMS build community partnerships and coordinate outreach events because they understand that bringing this issue to the forefront of public discussion starts with a dedicated grassroots effort.

On October 10, 2009, VASMS hosted The Safe Child Fair in Gainesville, Va., through a partnership with the Bridge to Freedom Foundation, Courtney's House and RIJI Green. The fair offered children's activities and games while parents learned how to protect their children from child exploitation. Events like The Safe Child Fair bring communities together to rally around a common call to action. Eradicating sex trafficking in America requires the involvement and due diligence of all communities, and I urge all to join in this battle to protect our children.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the efforts of Virginia Stop Modern Slavery. The prevalence of human trafficking in the United States is deplorable, and I wish VASMS continued success in its campaign to raise awareness for this issue.

**H.R. 3632, THE "FEDERAL JUDICIARY  
ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENT  
ACT OF 2009"**

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The purpose of H.R. 3632 is to implement non-controversial administrative provisions that the Judicial Conference and the House Judiciary Committee believe are necessary to improve the operations of the Federal judiciary and provide justice for the American people.

The Judicial Conference is the policy-making body of the Federal judiciary and through its committee system evaluates court operations. The Conference endorses all of the provisions in the bill.

H.R. 3632 affects a wide range of judicial branch programs and operations, including those pertaining to financial administration, process improvements, and personnel administration.

The bill incorporates nine separate items, including:

A section that clarifies that senior judges must satisfy minimum work thresholds to participate in court government matters, including the selection of magistrates.



A section that eliminates the references to divisions and counties in the statutory description of the Judicial District of North Dakota, which enables the court to better distribute the workload between two active district judges and reduce travel for litigants in the northern central area of the district.

A section that authorizes the "statement of reasons" that judges must issue upon sentencing to be filed separately with the court. Current law requires the statement to be bundled with other information in the case file distributed to the Sentencing Commission, where it can be difficult to maintain a seal related to confidential information.

A section that specifies that federal pretrial services officers can provide the same services to juveniles as they do for adult offenders. An example would be drug treatment.

And a section that applies an inflationary index to the threshold amount requiring approval by the chief judge of reimbursements for the cost of hiring expert witnesses and conducting investigations for indigent defendants. The dollar thresholds are statutorily fixed and erode over time. This means chief judges must devote greater time approving what are otherwise not genuine "high-dollar" requests.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3632 is necessary to improve the functioning of the U.S. courts, which will ultimately benefit the American people. This is a non-controversial bill and I urge my colleagues to support it.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I made and which were included within H.R. 2892, "Making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Account: TSA, Aviation Security

Project Amount: \$1,250,000.00

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National Safe Skies Alliance, 110 McGhee Tyson Boulevard, Suite 201, Alcoa, Tennessee 37701

Description of Request: This funding will be used to create a research and training center that will provide critical improvised explosives recognition training to TSA Transportation Security Officers, law enforcement personnel, fire fighters, emergency services personnel, first responders and others.

#### IRAN SANCTIONS ENABLING ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, for many years, I have advocated for high-level, diplo-

matic negotiations between the United States and Iran without preconditions. Under the previous administration I was compelled to do so with fervor due to the use of reckless saber rattling that accomplished nothing save for heightened tensions between our two nations.

I opposed this bill because I do not believe that additional economic sanctions at this time support U.S. actions to engage Iran diplomatically. Furthermore, it sends a mixed message: On one hand, the U.S. President wishes to engage in diplomacy. On the other hand, the U.S. Congress is punishing Iran during diplomatic engagement.

During my time in Congress, I have called for the kind of diplomatic dialogue that the U.S. and Iran engaged in for the first time in three decades on October 1st, 2009. These negotiations brought together not just Iran and the U.S. but France, Great Britain, Russia, China and Germany.

The talks proved a successful beginning to reinstating U.S. diplomatic ties with Iran. The two countries now have a foundation from which we can build. This must be nurtured so that mutual understanding and opportunities for collective action can be had on even the most difficult issues such as the Iranian nuclear program, Iraq and the protection of human rights. Additional economic sanctions only serve to threaten further engagement.

I question the wisdom of bringing a sanctions bill before this body when, after 30 years of isolationism and antagonism, the Obama Administration is finally beginning a new path forward with respect to diplomatic engagement to bring Iran into the international community in a way that promotes international security.

In the past, sanctions have had little impact on influencing the behavior and decisions of the Iranian government who have managed to remain insulated from the intended effects of sanctions. Instead it has been the people of Iran who bear the brunt of the impact.

I do not think it is the intention of this body to punish the Iranian people; particularly in light of their bravery following the elections of June 12th. It is clear that the people of Iran desire change and are willing to endure that which is necessary to achieve it through peaceful means. We must support their actions by doing all that we can to ensure their voices are heard rather than passing legislation that is intended to cause further harm to their economy.

Passage of this bill fails to recognize the sensitivity and importance of the dialogue that was begun on October 1st. And it fails to support the bravery of the Iranian people who will be the ones to feel the impact of the legislation. I oppose the legislation.

#### HONORING RICHARD LONG

#### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Richard Long, a lifelong champion of the American labor movement, my mentor, counsel and dear friend on the occasion his retirement from the United Auto Workers where he served as National Community Action Program (CAP) Director for the past nine years.

This year, Dick retires from a 46-year-long career which began in 1963 at the former Pontiac Motor Division in Pontiac, Michigan, where he first became a proud member of UAW Local 653. Over the ensuing years as Dick advanced on the shop floor, he also advanced and deepened his involvement in the UAW, which would chart his personal and professional trajectory for the next 40-plus years.

Some years later in 1987, Dick was elected Vice President of his UAW local and the following year he was elected its president. His leadership, commitment and talent was fully recognized in 1998, when then-UAW President Stephen Yokich named Dick his Administrative Assistant and, again, in 2000 when Dick was appointed National CAP Director. I remember well my pride and optimism when I learned that Dick had been appointed National CAP Director. For many years, Dick had mentored and counseled me so ably and devotedly; I was certain that in his new role, he would educate and organize others with as much verve and dedication as I had experienced.

As CAP Director, Dick was well-suited to the role and charge of "developing and advancing policies that improve social and economic conditions and enrich the quality of life for all people." By any account, Dick made a powerful impression on the State and National political landscape. His effectiveness was rooted in his ability to be equally comfortable working on the national stage or alongside grassroots volunteers in a makeshift office space.

Dick's contributions to the community and commitment to civil rights and social justice have been his personal and professional legacy. Whether in his role as a local president, supporting Oakland University with his wife Jackie, National CAP Director, or working on behalf of the many community organizations he champions, Dick has worked to create a better future for America's families and workers. For that legacy and commitment, he is much admired by me and many others.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my salute today to an important and formative figure in my life: Richard Long, a man to whom I am deeply indebted for his friendship and good counsel and a man whose 46 years of untiring work on behalf of America's working families and the ideals of social justice should be heartily commended and passionately emulated by each of us.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PIRAN TALKINGTON OF WOODBRIDGE, VA

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize twelve-year-old Piran Talkington of Woodbridge, Va. On June 24, 2007, Piran successfully executed the Heimlich maneuver to save the life of his four-year-old sister Caitlyn. Just 10 years old at the time, Piran showed remarkable composure by calmly employing this life saving technique.

As a Cub Scout in Pack 289 of Woodbridge, Piran learned basic life-saving skills as part of his training to become a Boy Scout. Piran's attentiveness during these lessons proved invaluable when he was able to unblock his

younger sister's airway during a family dinner. After Caitlyn regained her breathing and recovered her color, she tearfully hugged Piran.

Piran has continued his participation in Scouts and is now a Star Scout in Troop 1367. The Boy Scouts of America, upon recommendation of the National Court of Honor, has awarded Piran the Medal of Merit. This is the Boy Scouts' fourth highest national award. The award recognizes Piran for demonstrating the finest Scouting skills and ideals.

For nearly 100 years, the Boy Scouts have developed upstanding youth with the character and maturity to handle tough situations. Piran is an exceptional example of a young Scout. He also is an Honor Roll student and winner of the Fifth Grade Science Fair for Physical Sciences. Piran's life-saving measures were not an isolated instance of distinction. He works hard to reach the highest levels of achievement in everything he attempts.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding Piran's accomplishments. The decisiveness and skill with which he acted to save his sister can be attributed to his scouting background. This training will serve him well throughout his life, and I am confident that his future will be full of success and outstanding accomplishments.

KENNETH M. STAMPP, UC  
BERKELEY PROFESSOR EMERITUS

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Dr. Kenneth M. Stamp, professor emeritus at the University of California at Berkeley. He was a prolific historian, accomplished scholar and a devoted friend, husband, partner, father and grandfather. Professor Emeritus Stamp passed away on Friday, July 10, at the age of 96.

Dr. Stamp, who was born on July 12, 1912, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, struggled to earn money for his education during the Great Depression. He ultimately earned a B.A., M.A. and Ph.D in History at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. In 1946, after short teaching stints at two other universities, Dr. Stamp joined the staff at Berkeley as an assistant professor.

During his nearly 40-year career at Berkeley, Dr. Stamp established himself as a sometime controversial, though conclusively influential 19th Century historian. He is best known for his decades of work changing historical perceptions about American slavery, the Civil War and Southern Reconstruction.

His trailblazing research and publications helped further humanize enslaved African Americans by giving their stories equal historical weight. Dr. Stamp heroically countered other historians' arguments at a time when the accepted historical record characterized slavery as a necessary institution.

In his books, Dr. Stamp rejected 1950s theories suggesting that sectional compromise might have saved the Union from civil war. Rather, he traced the cause of the war directly to a moral debate over slavery.

According to colleagues, his 1956 book, "The Peculiar Institution: Slavery in the Ante-

Bellum South," remains the preeminent historical reinterpretation for that period.

Dr. Stamp had the distinction of travelling throughout the United States and Europe as a visiting professor, visiting fellow, and as both a Commonwealth and Fulbright lecturer. His humble upbringing contributed to a dedicated sense of social justice, which he demonstrated in his professional life and political views. Dr. Stamp participated in a 1965 Civil Rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

Throughout his career, Professor Emeritus Stamp earned many accolades, which included serving as President of the Organization of American Historians, being twice named a Guggenheim Fellow and winning the Lincoln Prize from the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College.

Perhaps most admirable is the way in which Dr. Stamp resurrected long-forgotten voices from generations of our African-American brothers and sisters living through one of the grimmest scourges in our nation's history. Over time, Dr. Stamp's work has invaluable altered the framework of academic assumption, historical discrimination and public perception.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a great human being, Professor Emeritus Kenneth M. Stamp. Our community is indebted to his life's contribution in countless ways. We extend our deepest condolences to Dr. Stamp's family and to all who were dear to him. May his soul rest in peace.

HONORING MR. FRANK G.  
MILLS, SR.

### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Frank G. Mills, Sr. Mr. Mills was elected and installed as the State Commander of the Pennsylvania Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars at the 90th State Convention.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is a congressionally chartered war veterans organization that has been serving the community as well as other veterans for over 100 years. The VFW is a model organization that exemplifies the principles that our Nation was founded upon.

Mr. Mills, a Life Member of Post #1754 in Huntington, Pennsylvania, has successfully served in all post chairs at the VFW. He served as the Post Commander four times and attained All State Post District Commander in 2006–2007. Frank also served on the national level on the Americanism and Community Activities Committee, Finance and Organization Committee, and Veterans Service Resolution Committee.

Frank Mills proudly served our country in the United States Navy as an Engineman 2nd Class on the USS *Tang* SS 563 submarine during the Vietnam war. His service medals include: National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze stars, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon.

Mr. Mills has led a life of service through the VFW and military service that instills a unique

sense of pride in the hearts of every American citizen. For his commitment to the citizens of Pennsylvania, I am extremely grateful to Frank G. Mills Sr.

### NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand here before you not only as a member of the United States Congress, but as a woman. I fully support H.R. 1700, "National Women's History Museum Act of 2009", this is an issue that I hold dear to my heart. This bill will increase awareness and knowledge of women's involvement in history.

Women's history is a vital part of American history, however it is not public knowledge; mostly in part to the lack of women's history education in the schools. The establishment of a National Women's History Museum would be a great tribute to all of those women whose stories are not told in history books. We must celebrate the women who paved the way for the rest of us. I thank my colleague Representative MALONEY, for introducing this valuable piece of legislation.

Today, women account for 51 percent of the world's population and throughout "woman's-kind" we have had countless sisters whose brilliance, bravery and power changed the course of history. H.R. 1700 will provide for an establishment which will recognize and honor the women and organizations in the United States that have fought for and continue to promote women's history.

A National Women's History Museum will bring awareness to all of those women who have broken barriers and glass ceilings for the rest of us. Women such as the honorable Speaker PELOSI, the honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Shirley Chisholm, Susan B. Anthony, Barbara Jordan, Sojourner Truth, Sacagawea, Rosa Parks, Amelia Earhart, Annie Oakley, and the list could go on for miles.

A museum devoted to women's history will shed light not only on well known women of history, but also those less renowned, such as Belva Ann Lockwood, who fought for admittance into law school. She fought to practice before the Supreme Court and even ran two full campaigns to run for President of the United States, although she could not vote.

In Texas, women such as former Governor Ann Richards, who was an accomplished political worker, Texas state treasurer, and Governor of Texas. Furthermore, Rosanna Osterman was a Texas pioneer, American Civil War nurse and philanthropist. She lived in Galveston, and during the 1853 yellow fever epidemic, she erected a temporary hospital on her family premises in order to nurse the sick and the dying. Osterman also chose to stay in Galveston during the civil war and opened her home as a hospital, first to Union soldiers, then to Confederate soldiers.

American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded

ways. They have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home.

American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the Nation and were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our Nation. In addition, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement. American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and just society for all; and

Despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in literature and the teaching and study of American history which is even more reason to dedicate a museum to all of the trailblazing women throughout history.

HONORING 2010 CENSUS COMMUNITY PARTNERS: ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA, NORTHERN VIRGINIA URBAN LEAGUE AND NORTHERN VIRGINIA COALITION

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Northern Virginia Urban League and the Northern Virginia Coalition for partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to educate our community on the importance of a complete and accurate count in the 2010 Census.

These organizations kicked off their education initiative with a forum on October 1, 2009 at Alexandria City Hall. Their efforts will be directed toward participation from Northern Virginia's African American community. They will discuss the logistics and strategy behind a successful Census and call on community leaders to take up this historic cause.

A Census is conducted once every 10 years and is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. It counts everyone living in the U.S. to determine the distribution of Congressional seats and the fair allocation of more than \$400 billion in federal funding to state, local and tribal governments. Widespread participation is essential to accurate representation in Congress and the correct apportionment of federal funds. An accurate Census helps to ensure fair representation for all, which is an ideal that lies at the heart of American democracy.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Northern Virginia Urban League and the Northern Virginia Coalition as responsible community partners for the 2010 Census. I appreciate their call to action as

such partnerships will be vital to the success of the Census.

HONORING BILL AND BETTY KICK

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friends Bill and Betty Kick of Saugerties, New York. Their kind demeanor and dedication to service work stand as a testament to the importance of giving back to the community.

Bill and Betty first met in kindergarten in Teaneck, New Jersey, where they grew up around the corner from one another. It came as no surprise when these childhood sweethearts married just days before Bill left to serve his country during World War II. During his 4 years in the Army, Bill was stationed in France, Germany, and Africa, rising to the difficult and challenging circumstances that this momentous conflict presented. Meanwhile, Betty remained in the U.S., doing her part by working for U.S. Rubber and the Syrian Embassy. Once Bill returned from the war, the couple settled in New York and soon welcomed their wonderful children, Linda and Peter. As new parents, they continued their commitment to community service by volunteering as Scout leaders.

When the time came to retire, and much to our benefit, Bill and Betty chose Saugerties, New York, as their home base. But Bill and Betty were far from homebound. Avid sailors, they have spent much of their retirement sailing around the world, going from Maine to the Florida Keys, and even as far as the South China Sea. In fact, Betty became one of the first female Celestial Navigators in the Hudson Valley. In spite of their passion for sailing, they still make time to volunteer within their community. Local organizations like Benedictine Hospital, Ulster Literacy Association, and the Winston Farm Alliance have all benefited from their time and dedication.

Throughout their lives, Bill and Betty have selflessly donated their time to help better their community. The 22nd District is fortunate to call them our own and it is with great enthusiasm that we look forward to many more years of their reminding us all of the importance of volunteerism.

THAILAND'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

**HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support submitted by Ambassador Don Pramudwinai on behalf of Minister of Foreign Affairs Kasit Piromya of the Kingdom of Thailand in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

ROYAL THAI EMBASSY,

*Washington, DC, October 7, 2009.*

Hon. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

THE HONORABLE ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA, I have the honor to transmit herewith a condolence message on the earthquakes and tsunami incident in American Samoa from His Excellency Mr. Kasit Piromya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand to the Honorable as follows:

THE HONORABLE FALEOMAVAEGA, It is with profound sorrow that I learned of the intense magnitude of the undersea earthquakes and tsunami that hit the United States territory of American Samoa on 29 September 2009, causing a terrible loss of lives, widespread property damage and left so many people homeless.

I would like to extend my sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy to you and, through you, to those families who lost their loved ones as well as those who were distressed by this dreadful disaster. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this time of sorrow. In 2004, Thailand suffered through the devastating effects of a tsunami, and therefore, we share your grief and understand very well the hardship besetting the people of American Samoa. I am certain that with strong spirit of solidarity of the people of American Samoa, the affected areas will be quickly rehabilitated and restored.

Accept, the Honorable, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

KASIT PIROMYA,

*Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Kingdom of Thailand.*

Please accept, the Honorable, the assurances of my highest consideration.

DON PRAMUDWINAI,

*Ambassador.*

MOURNING THE LOSS OF LIFE ON AMERICAN SAMOA AND SAMOA AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 816 to mourn the loss of life and express my condolences for the disaster that took place in Samoa and American Samoa on September 29, 2009.

On that dreadful day, over 150 people lost their lives when a tsunami rose twenty feet into the air and made landfall on the shores of Samoa and American Samoa in the southern region of the Pacific Ocean. The destruction that this tsunami caused was overwhelming, and in addition to the loss of life, countless more individuals have lost their homes and possessions. I extend my deepest condolences to the victims and their families, and offer my deepest sympathies for their loss.

I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 816 to remember those that died in Samoa and American Samoa on September 29, 2009.

GOOD SHEPHERD HOUSING FOUNDATION OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA, CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation. For the past two decades, the Foundation has provided low-cost housing to the homeless and those on the brink of homelessness in Prince William County.

The Foundation was created in 1989 out of the compassion and collective action of the Good Shepherd faith community. The founders identified a need within Prince William County for housing for the mentally ill. They worked with the Prince William County Community Services Board to establish the bedrock of a stable and lasting program. In its beginning, the Foundation provided housing for five single adults.

It has since grown substantially in both numbers of clientele and breadth of mission. Now in its twentieth year, the Foundation provides housing and supportive services for 25 single adults and 18 families in 11 homes owned by the Foundation. Assistance has been extended to those with chronic low income, mental and physical disabilities, AIDS/HIV, pregnant teens and the elderly. The organization is sustained by the efforts and donations of individuals, businesses and churches, and it receives assistance from local, State and Federal funding.

The Shepherd Homes Program offers group living and single adult housing options to mentally ill individuals. Shepherd Homes I, II and III are properties owned by the Foundation that function as group homes. Ten apartments leased by the Foundation offer the mentally ill, some who are veterans, relief from chronic homelessness. Beyond housing assistance, the Foundation offers services that put residents on a path to financial and psychological stability.

Since its inception, the Foundation expanded its mission to include low income families. The Affordable Family Housing Program is a holistic program aimed at providing housing and teaching families the importance of education and financial management. Families are given transitional, two-year or long-term, low-cost housing. Tutoring is available for the children and parents receive financial counseling. The Foundation works to end chronic homelessness by providing immediate relief and preventing future generations from falling into this dangerous condition.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing appreciation for the work the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation does in the Prince William community. The Foundation exists today as a robust and effective community organization dedicated to helping the disabled and less fortunate. I offer my unconditional support for its mission and commend its ability to help our fellow man.

CELEBRATION OF THE FESTIVAL OF DIWALI

### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Festival of Diwali.

Over one billion individuals celebrate the cultural and religious holiday of Diwali each year. Diwali is one of the most joyous festivals celebrated on the South Asian subcontinent. The festival is celebrated in the Hindu, Sikh, and Jain traditions, and has cultural significance for South Asians. Within the United States there are over 2 million celebrating Diwali making it a significant holiday in our country.

Diwali literally means "The Festival of Lights," translated from Hindi. Celebrations of Diwali usually involve the lighting of lamps to symbolize hope and joy. I joined Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the White House yesterday, as President Obama lit a lamp in the White House in the observance of the festival, after signing an executive order restoring the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

In the Hindu faith Diwali is often linked to Rama's triumphant return following his victory over Ravana as told in the epic The Ramayana. Following Rama's victory his people lighted lamps along the capital city to celebrate as their King returned. The clay lamps which the people lit, were called Deepavalis which Diwali is a shortened version of. In many Hindu calendars Diwali corresponds with the start of a new year. Diwali is one of the most significant holidays within Hinduism.

In Jainism, Diwali marks the date upon which Lord Mahavira achieved the state of absolute bliss or Nirvana. It is said that King Chetaka, upon Lord Mahavira achieving Nirvana, light a multitude of lamps to create a material light to replace the light of intelligence that had been lost.

In the Sikh tradition, the foundation of the Golden Temple is said to have been laid on Diwali. In this tradition, the 6th Sikh guru Hargobind was released from prison on the festival of Diwali.

There is great diversity among the faiths that celebrate this joyful holiday. Across all these traditions, Diwali holds significance across the South-Asian community as a time of hope, happiness and the renewal of life. I am very proud to have been a co-sponsor of House Resolution 798, conveying the best wishes of the House of Representatives to those celebrating Diwali. The resolution recognizes the importance of Diwali and extends the House of Representatives' deepest respects to all those celebrating Diwali. I would like to join with all those celebrating this joyous time and wish Shubh Diwali to all.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I was absent on Wednesday, Octo-

ber 14, 2009, due to a previously scheduled event. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" during the recorded votes for the following five bills:

1. H. Res. 768—Expressing support for the designation of the month of October as "National Work and Family Month";

2. H.R. 1327—Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009;

3. H. Res. 816—Mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that occurred on September 29, 2009, in American Samoa and Samoa;

4. H. Res. 786—Commemorating the canonization of Father Damien de Veuster, SS.CC., to sainthood; and

5. H.R. 3371—Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009.

IN RECOGNITION OF ESTRELLA CLEMENT IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

### HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise today to honor Estrella Clement, who dedicates her life to help identify and treat women who have breast and cervical cancer.

Ms. Clement was born in Cuba, moved to New Jersey as a child and has been living in Tampa for 25 years. Ms. Clement always knew she wanted to be a nurse and help improve the health of her community. She obtained a master's degree in nursing from the University of South Florida and has been a nurse for more than 32 years. Ms. Clement works with Meditech Medical Center clinics where free mammogram tests, breast examination, and Pap smears are offered to women who might not be able to afford these services otherwise.

Tirelessly dedicated, Ms. Clement worries that women are unaware of the free screening and treatment options in her neighborhood. Transportation is a major obstacle for many low-income women. Ms. Clement's goal is to have a mobile unit so she can go directly to the community. Unfortunately, too few people know about the free service. Ms. Clement is making it her duty to reach as many women as possible.

Ms. Clement also has been a co-chair of Prime Time Sister Circles, a group that helps African-American women improve their health, and she has served on the Moffitt Cancer Center's Hispanic Advisory Council.

Madam Speaker, Estrella Clement is acutely aware of the toll, both financial and emotional, that breast and cervical cancer can have on women. She devotes her life to improving the health of the Tampa community. I applaud her dedication to the prevention and treatment of breast and cervical cancer.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF  
UNITED STATES-POLISH DIPLO-  
MATIC RELATIONS

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. LIPINSKI, for introducing this legislation commemorating the 90th anniversary of the establishment of U.S.-Polish Diplomatic Relations.

The Polish people and the people of the United States have a long history of friendship that dates back to the American war of independence when Polish patriot Casimir Pulaski volunteered to serve in the Continental Army and led his own cavalry regiment in fighting the British.

We have stood shoulder to shoulder during dark times in both our histories, and in more recent times, we rejoiced together as the iron curtain that had enshrouded Poland and Eastern Europe was cast aside.

And, in 1999, the United States and NATO welcomed Poland into our security partnership.

In 2008, America signed a cooperative security agreement with Poland to further our mutual security interests. This included the establishment of a missile defense system to protect both Europe and the United States from ballistic missile attacks from rogue states such as Iran.

This agreement was signed as a result of the strong courage of Poland's leaders who believed the United States government when it promised to help protect their homeland.

Ironically, on September 17, 2009—the 70th anniversary of the 1939 Soviet invasion of Poland—the Administration withdrew U.S. support for this mutual missile defense system in Europe. The Administration must now respond to find other ways that our cooperative partnership may be advanced.

As a member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the author of the NATO First Act, I believe the United States must remain committed to working with the Polish people to sustain our mutual partnership.

I urge support of H. Res. 266.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF “MEETING  
OF THE PRESIDENTS”

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark a unique date in our history, the 100th Anniversary of the “Meeting of the Presidents”. On October 16, 1909, U.S. President William Howard Taft and Mexican President Porfirio Diaz met in both El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico in an historic meeting that established the personal relationship between our two countries. The event marked the first in-person meeting between the Presidents of the United States and Mexico. In fact, prior to 1909, no sitting U.S. President had left our country to visit a foreign nation.

The sister cities of El Paso and Ciudad Juarez went to great lengths to ensure that

this meeting was unlike any other, by adorning memorial columns and welcome arches with the colors of the two nations—red, white, and blue, and red, white, and green. Principal thoroughfares were decorated, thousands of incandescent and arc lamps were lit, and it is said that the cities competed with each other to demonstrate their best hospitality to the visiting Presidents.

The Stone and Webster Public Service Journal of 1909 has a great account of the day's historic events. President Taft arrived in El Paso, on the morning of October 16, 1909 and was met by El Paso Mayor Joseph U. Sweeney. After breakfast, President Taft was taken to the Chamber of Commerce through streets lined with thousands of school children who proudly waved colorful flags and sang patriotic songs. Mexican President Porfirio Diaz traveled across the International Bridge and was met by Secretary of War J.M. Dickinson, Texas Governor Thomas Mitchell Campbell, and Mayor Sweeney who escorted President Diaz to his meeting with President Taft at the Chamber of Commerce.

After the meeting, President Taft journeyed across the border to visit Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Arriving at the border of the Chamizal zone, which was then disputed territory between the U.S. and Mexico, President Taft drove through the International Bridge and was saluted by the Mexican artillery with twenty-one guns. Upon arriving in Mexico, he entered the state carriage of President Diaz and was driven to the Custom House, which served as the temporary capital of the Mexican Republic. After a brief meeting, President Taft returned to El Paso, where he participated in a parade and addressed the cheering crowds. He ended the day by attending a reception in Ciudad Juarez where the two Presidents toasted each other and their respective countries.

This marked the first international trip of any sitting U.S. President and remains a rich part of the storied history of the great city of El Paso, which I represent. To this day, El Paso and Ciudad Juarez have maintained close ties. Culturally, socially, and economically intertwined, these sister cities are home to the largest international border community with a population of over 2 million people. Since that time, El Paso and Ciudad Juarez have hosted four joint meetings between the presidents of Mexico and the United States, more than any other border city.

On January 12, 2009, President-elect Obama continued this spirit of cooperation by meeting with President Felipe Calderon in his first face-to-face talks with a foreign head of state. This meeting fulfilled a tradition in effect since 1980 of U.S. Presidents talking with their Mexican counterparts before being sworn in, to underscore the special relationship between the two nations.

My good friend, Mexican Ambassador to the U.S. Arturo Sarukhan, reflecting on this special occasion said, “there is no more important bilateral relationship in the world today than the one between Mexico and the United States. . . . October 16th marks a date that should inspire us all to continue working to ensure that both Mexicans and Americans continue strengthening a partnership that must lead both countries toward greater development, security, prosperity and well-being for our two peoples.”

Let us mark this occasion by committing ourselves to push forward to strengthen the

relationship between Mexico and the United States. I applaud the work of President Obama and President Calderon to foster a closer relationship with our southern neighbor. There is no better way to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the “Meeting of the Presidents” than by continuing the legacy of strong diplomatic ties with our friends from Mexico.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION CON-  
DEMNING THE ILLEGAL EXTRAC-  
TION OF MADAGASCAR'S NAT-  
URAL RESOURCES

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution to condemn the illegal extraction of Madagascar's unique and invaluable natural resources. I am joined in this effort by DONALD PAYNE, Chair of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, and ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, Chair of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment.

Madagascar hosts some of this planet's greatest diversity. Larger than California, this island nation hosts over 150,000 species found nowhere else. The people of Madagascar depend on these incredible and unique resources for survival. Yet, political turmoil is putting the honest livelihoods of many, as well as one of our planet's greatest treasures, in extreme peril.

Reports from Madagascar are dire and detail rampant illegal logging, mining, and resource degradation. This resolution condemns this ongoing tragedy and calls for the restoration of rule of law. It is my hope that calling attention to this issue will spur change.

REVEREND DR. FRANK JACKSON

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the wonderful life of Reverend Dr. Frank Jackson. His vibrant spirit, limitless compassion and selfless commitment to service will be missed by all who knew him. Through his ministry at Faith Presbyterian Church of Oakland, Reverend Jackson brought our community to a greater understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the life of the Church. He was an exemplary husband, father, pastor, community leader, teacher and friend. With his passing on September 11, 2009, we look to Reverend Jackson's legacy and the joy his work inspired.

After earning a bachelor's degree at San Francisco's Simpson College in 1972, Reverend Jackson pursued a Master of Divinity at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. Reverend Jackson also became the first African-American clergy member to graduate from the Master of Nonprofit Administration program at University of San Francisco when he earned his third degree there in

1991. Education and personal growth were immensely important values to Reverend Jackson. He truly used a lifetime of learning to inspire and teach others.

In his early pastoral career, Reverend Jackson acted as Interim Pastor to rebuild and develop transitioning churches in the Los Angeles area. He focused his passion for providing youth leadership and family services as Associate Pastor for Menlo Park Presbyterian Church from 1979 to 1983. Later that year, he joined Faith Presbyterian Church in Oakland, thus beginning 26 years of service to our community as Pastor and spiritual guide.

Along with wife Jimmie Jackson, with whom he celebrated 41 years of marriage this month, and daughter Rachel Jackson, Reverend Jackson maintained a dynamic presence in Bay Area community organizing. He was instrumental in organizing numerous collaborations and events including Support for the Families of Homicide Victims, a Community Health Fair Event, Embrace Oakland Day and Faith Network of the East Bay.

Reverend Jackson was passionate about encouraging collaboration between diverse groups. He utilized the clarity of his vision and the strength of his faith to unite people to work for shared goals. In 1992, Reverend Jackson was a founding pastor of the African American & Korean American Fellowship of Churches, a coalition that sought to build better racial relationships between communities of color. He also established the Themus Spencer Learning Center at Faith Presbyterian Church in partnership with Emerson Elementary School to guide at-risk students to academic success.

Deeply moved by the challenges of Katrina Relief in 2006, Reverend Jackson also helped organize a team of Oakland Pastors to raise relief funds during a citywide gathering at the Oakland Coliseum. Whether working with an interfaith coalition to rebuild burned black churches in Boligee, Alabama, or simply lending an ear to a friend in need—Reverend Jackson always made time to help others.

Additionally, he was a great lover of sports, earning his Black Belt in Korean Judo and serving as Chaplain for the Golden State Warriors Basketball Team and other pro- and college teams. In his later years, Reverend Jackson stayed active as trustee, co-chair or committee member for myriad organizations, even earning a Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary just last year.

Pastor Jackson was a personal friend and source of inspiration to me. Often times he would leave a prayer on my voicemail and his words of encouragement always came, "right on time." I will always remember the joy and excitement Reverend Jackson felt at the National Prayer Breakfast this year in Washington D.C., when along with Mrs. Jackson and Pastor and Mrs. Pinkard, he witnessed our President Barack Obama and First Lady participate in their first national prayer breakfast. This week, as I looked at the photos once again after learning of Reverend Jackson's untimely death, I was reminded of his kind and gentle spirit. His life was one lived in service to God.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors Reverend Frank Jackson. The contributions Reverend Jackson made to his community throughout his life are countless and precious. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones. Reverend Jackson will be deeply missed. May his soul rest in peace.

## COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

SPEECH OF

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Hellenic Caucus, I rise today to congratulate the Daughters of Penelope on their 80th anniversary. I want to thank Representative MALONEY, my Hellenic Caucus co-chair for introducing this meaningful measure of which I am a proud original cosponsor. The Daughters of Penelope is a premier international women's organization and affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, the Nation's leading association of American citizens of Greek heritage and countless Philhellenes.

Founded November 16, 1929, in San Francisco, California, the Daughters of Penelope was established to improve the well-being of women and provide them with the opportunity to make significant contributions to American society. Today its mission is to promote the ideals of ancient Greece, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family, and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism.

Over its history, the Daughters of Penelope have achieved remarkable accomplishments. It has strengthened the status of women in society, sheltered the elderly and the abused, educated our youth, promoted Hellenic heritage, and raised funds for medical research.

One project adopted by the Daughters of Penelope over the years that is near and dear to my heart is St. Basil Academy, a Greek Orthodox Archdiocese home for children in need. Beginning in 1954, the Daughters of Penelope have been providing charitable aid to St. Basil Academy when it embarked on a Christmas Seal Campaign to raise funds to build the new water works for the academy. Since then, the Daughters of Penelope contributed to the furnishing of new buildings that have been built on campus, built a heated outdoor swimming pool for the children, and has provided funds for ongoing maintenance and renovations to the academy for such items as replacing outdated appliances and worn-out roofs.

Finally, Daughters of Penelope members exemplify the American dream. With their strong work ethic, Greek-American women have risen to become leaders in their respective professions, from government to business to the arts. I am honored to have a longtime member of the Daughters working in my district office. My dear friend, Sonja Stefanadis, has been a member of the Daughters of Penelope for 48 years and served as its national president in the early 80's. So, I know first hand the extraordinary work this wonderful organization does. It has been a vehicle through which this advancement has occurred in our society.

Congratulations to the Daughters of Penelope. I look forward to many, many years of working together with them.

## THANKING COLONEL GENE BLADE FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. AARON SCHOCK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor COL Gene Blade, a great American who is retiring today after 55 years of service to his country and community.

Colonel Blade started his 40-year military career in 1954, when he joined the Illinois National Guard in Monmouth, Illinois. His first job in the Army was as a radio operator and Jeep driver for the Battery Commander. As his military career advanced, Colonel Blade served in numerous other positions, including Fire Support Officer and eventually Battery Commander. In fact, Colonel Blade held every key staff position in the infantry and artillery battalions, including Infantry Battalion Commander of the 1st Regiment, 123rd Infantry Battalion.

Colonel Blade continued to perform his duties even when no one expected him to do so. In one specific instance, Gene was hospitalized with pneumonia, but a group of top military personnel were scheduled to visit his post to view a demonstration of a nuclear spotter round. The weapons used for this exercise required very specific calculations, and Gene's expertise was needed for the test. Even with pneumonia, Colonel Blade decided to take part in the test and was transported via ambulance to the testing area so he could commence the demonstration. The event occurred without any problems, in fact, it was performed quicker than any previous test. After the demonstration, Gene was transported via ambulance back to the hospital. Gene's commitment to the Army was so evident, that the Army Chief of Staff personally thanked him for going above and beyond the call of duty.

After serving 40 years in the Army, Colonel Blade retired as a United States Property and Fiscal Officer for the Illinois National Guard and joined Hanson Professional Services Inc. as a special consultant, working with Department of Defense clients. Even in the private sector, Gene continued to serve his country. Using his skills and knowledge, he provided consulting services for 15 years and worked on several notable projects for the Illinois, Indiana, Florida, and Missouri National Guards.

Additionally, Colonel Blade has served on the U.S. Department of Defense's Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) for military bases in Illinois, and he continues to serve on the Governor's post-BRAC commission for future economic development efforts. He is also an active member and an employer outreach representative for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program.

Throughout his life and career, Gene's dedication and achievements have made a positive impact on the U.S. military, the State of Illinois, and our great Nation. Today, at 75 years of age, Colonel Blade will celebrate his retirement from Hanson. I'm told he looks forward to spending time golfing, traveling, woodworking, and also writing a book of his memoirs. I thank him for his service, and wish him the very best.

RECOGNIZING PRINCE WILLIAM  
CLEAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
AND ITS 2009 VOLUNTEER OF  
THE YEAR CONNIE MOSER

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Prince William Clean Community Council and its 2009 Volunteer of the Year, Connie Moser. With the help of dedicated volunteers like Ms. Moser, the Council works to eliminate litter and graffiti in Prince William neighborhoods and commercial centers.

The Council was conceived in 1982 during a spring cleanup effort led by a group of concerned Prince William County residents. These volunteers, who later became the founding members of the Council, immediately recognized the importance of litter prevention education as a way to long-term environmental protection and preservation. In 1986, the Prince William County Litter Control Council was born. The organization later changed its name to the Clean Community Council, and it became an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, a nationwide non-profit that uses education and hands-on stewardship to advocate litter control, waste reduction, and community beautification.

The Council's litter prevention and graffiti abatement efforts have not gone unnoticed. The Council's accolades include a 1994 Governors Award for Volunteering Excellence. The Council was a 2000 Virginia Stewardship Award Winner in the Communication/Education Category, and it received the Prince William County 2001 Partners for the Potomac Environmental Patron Award, 2000 and 2002 Keep America Beautiful National Awards and a 2008 Keep America Beautiful President's Circle Recognition Award.

The Council's volunteers always have been essential to its success and the 1st Volunteer of the Year Award is a way to recognize their invaluable support. The recipient, Connie Moser, is a resident of Dale City, Va., and sits on the Council's board of directors. She teaches the Council's principles and goals to a number of other organizations that benefit from her involvement. She is acting Secretary for the Dale City Civic Association, a volunteer for the Prince William County Habitat for Humanity, maintains two "Adopt-A-Spots" for the Prince William Clean Community Council, serves on the Prince William County Neighborhood Leader's Group and is the founder of the Lindendale Community Group. Remarkably, she found time this year to coordinate a clean-up effort for the Dale City Fourth of July parade route, a large scale community beautification effort that inspired others to take up the Council's mission. Ms. Moser is truly devoted to her community's quality of life and does not shy away from a long, hard day of work to make Prince William County a pleasant place to live.

Madam Speaker, we create safer, cleaner neighborhoods when residents take ownership over their communities. The Clean Community Council asks Prince William residents to take pride in their county and work to eliminate not just litter and graffiti but the carelessness that allows these community plagues to proliferate.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the successes of the Prince William Clean Community Council and congratulating Connie Moser on being named the recipient of its 1st Volunteer of the Year Award.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF RICHARD C.  
SHADYAC SR.

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Richard C. Shadyac Sr. who served on the Board of Directors and Governors of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities (ALSAC) for more than forty years. Mr. Shadyac had a true passion and devotion to the children and families that fight catastrophic pediatric diseases at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Mr. Shadyac began his illustrious and influential career as a member of ALSAC and of St. Jude Hospital Boards of Directors and Governors in 1963. He also served as ALSAC's general counsel. In 1992, after the passing of Danny Thomas, the founder of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Mr. Shadyac became the CEO of ALSAC. Upon taking on his new leadership role, Mr. Shadyac worked tirelessly to continue the legacy and dream of his friend, Danny Thomas who said, "No child should die in the dawn of life." Mr. Shadyac served as the CEO until his retirement in 2005.

During the 13 years he led ALSAC, public funding for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital quadrupled. By 2005, ALSAC had become the third largest health-care charity in the U.S. and is currently the second largest. During Mr. Shadyac's tenure, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital was also able to undergo a \$1 billion expansion that strengthened the hospital's capacity to focus on patient and family care and to conduct research for children with catastrophic diseases. His compassion and dedication to provide free care for the children and families who seek treatment was immeasurable and the driving force of his work.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Richard Shadyac Sr. who spent years of his life working on behalf of the countless sick and struggling children who come to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to fight, treat and care for what are often life threatening illnesses. It is clear that without his dedication and hard work, the triumphs in research, treatment and patient and family care that the hospital provides would not be possible. Mr. Shadyac will be missed by those whose lives were in some way touched by him.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF  
UNITED STATES-POLISH DIPLO-  
MATIC RELATIONS

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 266, celebrating 90 years of United States-Polish diplomatic relations. It was April of 1919 when the United States first established a diplomatic relationship with the Polish Republic, and for nearly a century our two countries have worked together to maintain this important bond. Throughout the course of this lasting friendship, we have seen Poland overcome a period of communist rule and a legacy of foreign occupation to emerge as the free and democratic nation it is today, showing the great strength and resolve of the Polish people.

The mark of a great nation, however, is not measured solely by the distance of its own advancement, but by its ability and willingness to help advance and protect other nations in the world community. Poland has collaborated closely with the United States in efforts to promote democratization and human rights in regions beyond the nation's borders. Additionally, the great nation of Poland has assisted the United States in fundamental efforts to limit nuclear proliferation, facilitate regional cooperation in Eastern Europe, and reform the United Nations.

As a proud member of the Polish Caucus, it is my honor to recognize Poland for its indispensable support and committed partnership with the United States in advancing worldwide liberty. Poland has continually supported the United States, both militarily and diplomatically, in efforts aimed at combating global terrorism.

I am proud to say that my home state of Connecticut has one of the largest Polish-American populations in the country. Polish-Americans play an active role in the community through the many cultural and civic organizations established in my district. This includes the Greater Hartford Polish Cultural Club, which was proud to host the 61st Annual National Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture in August of this year. The continued celebration of the vibrant heritage of Polish-Americans is a testament to the strength of the enduring partnership between our two great nations.

It is with great appreciation for Poland's efforts in upholding the ideals of freedom that I rise in support of House Resolution 266, celebrating 90 years of United States-Polish diplomatic relations.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VI-  
SION OF A THOUSAND "POINTS  
OF LIGHT"

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the vision of a thousand "Points of



Light" and to celebrate the growing tide of commitment to service and volunteering that is a hallmark of this great nation. Tomorrow, President George H. W. Bush and President Barack Obama are together to mark this important milestone in the history of the service movement.

Twenty years ago, President Bush spoke of a thousand points of light, individuals and organizations "spread like stars throughout the nation, doing good." From this idea rose the Points of Light Foundation which has both recognized and organized exemplary acts of giving for the past two decades.

In 2007, it merged with Hands On Network, which started in my district, in the city of Atlanta, and the combined organization is now the Points of Light Institute, the largest volunteer network in the country. Their mission is to mobilize, not just a thousand, but millions to answer the call to solve our most pressing problems—volunteers working together to help those with HIV in San Francisco, building wheelchair ramps in Greenville, and creating award-winning tutoring programs in Atlanta.

In today's hard times, people are hurting. Americans are having to choose between paying their mortgages and putting food on the table. In these tough times it is more important than ever that we, as American citizens, give back to those in need. National Service becomes ever more important when people are hurting. I am proud of my fellow citizens who have heeded the calls to service, and have dedicated their time to helping others. In 2008, 61.8 million Americans volunteered, dedicating more than 8 billion hours of service worth an estimated \$162 billion.

The Points of Light Institute and its 250 Hands On Action Centers reach 80 percent of our nation's communities have been at the forefront of this remarkable growth. I am so pleased to be able to recognize this organization's first 20 years of harnessing the energy and enthusiasm of our people to be a part of a better world and their ongoing contributions as a part of President Obama's United We Serve initiative.

#### INTRODUCING THE EVERY CHILD DESERVES A FAMILY ACT

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will open up thousands of good homes to foster children. On any given day, there are approximately 500,000 children in the child welfare system. Over 125,000 of these abused and neglected children are waiting to be adopted. There is an acute shortage, however, of adoptive and foster parents. The result is that many children, particularly minority and special needs children, languish in foster care without permanent homes. The severe developmental, emotional, and educational costs to children raised in foster care are well documented. The 25,000 youth who never find a permanent family and "age out" of the system each year are more likely than nearly any other group to become homeless, incarcerated, or suffer with mental illness or substance abuse.

Despite the shortage of adoptive and foster parents and the terrible consequences of long

stays in the child welfare system, some states have enacted discriminatory bans prohibiting children from being placed with qualified parents due to the parent's marital status or sexual orientation. Currently, over 65,000 adopted children and 14,000 foster children are living with a gay or lesbian parent. Studies suggest that upward of 2 million gay and lesbian individuals are interested in adopting or fostering a child. Yet, statewide discriminatory bans and the practices of individual adoption agencies have resulted in fewer children being placed in safe and permanent homes.

Congress invests over \$8 billion in the child welfare system each year and we should not accept policies that use Federal funds to enact barriers to adoption and close the door to thousands of potential homes. Multiple studies have found that adopted and foster children raised by gay and lesbian parents fare just as well as their peers being raised by heterosexual parents.

When considering a potential placement for a child, the only criteria should be what is in the child's best interest and whether the prospective parents can provide a safe and nurturing home. Bigotry should play no part in this decision. That is why I am introducing the "Every Child Deserves a Family Act." This legislation would simply prohibit any entity that receives Federal child welfare funds from denying or delaying adoption or foster care placements based solely on the prospective parent's marital status or sexual orientation. States and child welfare agencies that fail to end discriminatory practices would face financial penalties. This is the same approach that put an end to race discrimination in adoption and foster care placements.

Abused and neglected children in our child welfare system are some of the most vulnerable members of our society. We cannot allow divisive politics to further harm these children by shrinking the number of prospective adoptive and foster parents. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in saying yes to children and no to bigotry by cosponsoring the "Every Child Deserves a Family Act" and working with me to make it law.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY OF 2009

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Latino AIDS Awareness Day of 2009 which takes place today on Thursday, October 15, 2009. I want to commend the various individuals and groups that have worked hard to make this day a reality including the Hispanic Federation, the Latino Commission on AIDS, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, and various other local, regional, and national partners.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day is an incredibly important day that helps bring attention to the problems the Latino community faces in regards to the HIV/AIDS crisis. While the HIV/AIDS problem is an issue that affects every racial and ethnic group in the United States, it unfortunately has a disproportionate impact on the Latino community. In 2006,

there were roughly 80,000 Latinos living with AIDS, representing 18 percent of all those living with the disease, and although Latinos comprise 15.3 percent of the U.S. population, they account for 24.3 percent of new HIV infections. Additionally, stigma within the community, lack of access to health care, and misinformation about the virus make it difficult to combat. Truly, this must be changed, and embracing the goals and ideas of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day is a step towards making that happen.

I am reminded, too, that the Latino community is not alone in this struggle. Other ethnic groups and particularly the African-American community are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. We must all stand together, learn from each other, and work toward ending this virus that hurts so many people in our country and across the world.

Madam Speaker, I urge my fellow colleagues to join me today in recognizing National Latino AIDS Awareness Day for the betterment of our country and the health of the numerous ethnic groups that add so much to our national character.

#### EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT AND THE REGIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the joint anniversary celebration of East Bay Regional Park District's 75th Anniversary and the supporting Regional Parks Foundation's 40th Anniversary. This evening, Park District supporters and friends gather at Temescal Regional Park, overlooking open space created through the founding of the nation's first and largest Regional Park District.

In 1934, during the catastrophic depths of the Great Depression, members of a grass-roots land preservation movement placed a measure on the ballot that would preserve excess watershed land in the Oakland and Berkeley hills. The project introduced a concept unheard of at the time: creating a natural balance between recreational land use and wilderness preservation. Bay Area residents responded with unprecedented foresight and civic commitment when the measure passed by an astonishing 71 percent.

Today, the East Bay Regional Park District, EBRPD, operating in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, manages more than 98,000 acres of land comprising 65 parks and over 1,000 miles of biking, hiking and horse riding trails. The parks host approximately 14 million visitors per year.

The District, supported by the Regional Parks Foundation's fundraising efforts, provides recreational opportunities at freshwater swimming areas, fishing docks and piers, day camps, children's play areas and numerous camping and picnic sites.

Myriad visitor services include education centers, a disabled-access swimming pool and group meeting facilities. The District's Park Express Bus Program offers subsidized bus service to any District park for groups of senior, disabled or low-income residents and school classes with funded lunch programs.

Our regional parks' success is the result of eight decades of hard work by innumerable citizen activists, elected district directors, general managers, district employees, environmental organizations, public officials, volunteers, and taxpayers who have collaborated to ensure local access to a majestic regional park system. Many park sites also contain protected species of plants and animals, as well as Native American historical sites containing rock art, and burial or village locations. Above all, EBRPD's top priority remains aligned with our park founders' original mission: to preserve the natural beauty of the land and protect wildlife habitats.

The future of East Bay Regional Park District is marked by growth and stability thanks to last year's passage of Measure WW, the largest local park bond measure to pass on record.

Seventy-five years ago, Bay Area park advocates demonstrated a pioneering and progressive local spirit, which endures to this day. The rich history of our regional parks has undoubtedly helped lay the framework for the Bay Area's famed conservation movement. It is this continued passion for open spaces and preservation that inspires communities, on a national and global level, to protect and preserve both the environment—and our future.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, on October 14, 2009, I missed the following Rollcall Votes due to a longstanding commitment away from Washington:

1. Rollcall vote No. 775, H. Res. 768, Expressing support for the designation of the Month of October as "National Work and Family Month".

2. Rollcall vote No. 776, H.R. 1327, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act.

3. Rollcall Vote 777, H. Res. 816, Mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that occurred on September 29, 2009.

4. Rollcall Vote 778, H.R. 3371, Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009.

5. Rollcall Vote 779, H. Res. 786, Commemorating the canonization of Father Damien de Veuster, SS.CC. to sainthood.

If present, I would have voted "yea" on all matters.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ART VAN FURNITURE

### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Art Van Furniture, an iconic fixture in the retail world of Michigan that was founded by Art Van Elslander, a much admired and prominent figure in the metro-Detroit community.

The story of Art Van Elslander and the rise of Art Van Furniture to its dominant position in

the retail furniture world is the American Dream fully realized. As a son of Belgian immigrants and growing up on Detroit's east side, Archie "Art" Van Elslander's entrepreneurial spirit shone brightly even as a youngster when he hawked newspapers up and down Detroit's Gratiot Avenue. After high school, military service and working at a local furniture store, Mr. Van Elslander entered the world of entrepreneurs. Heeding his father's advice to "control your own destiny," Mr. Van Elslander mortgaged his home and borrowed against insurance policies to finance his first store.

Through times both flourishing and faltering in the subsequent years, the fortunes of Art Van Furniture ebbed and flowed with the economic cycles of the Michigan economy. Ultimately, it grew to more than 30 locations across Michigan and employing more than 2500. Over the years, Art Van Furniture has adapted to the changing environment, and quite literally so. Art Van has been named a "GreenTailor" by the Michigan Retailers Association after adopting a variety of Earth-friendly practices ranging from the installation of Energy Management Systems to recycling tons of waste. It has been continually named as one of West Michigan's Best and Brightest places to work.

Over the past 50 years, Art Van has grown to be Michigan's largest furniture retailer. And during those years, Art Van Elslander became renowned and admired as a pillar of the philanthropic community and a stalwart business leader committed to Michigan and its citizens. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my salute today to Art Van Elslander on 50 years of vision, perseverance and "giving back" to our community; and to Art Van Furniture and each of its thousands of employees over the years, on 50 years of business growth and success.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEORGE BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

SPEECH OF

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 138, which honors the George Bush Intercontinental Airport for its 40 years of outstanding service to the residents of Houston, TX, and to travelers from around the world.

Since it first opened in 1969, Bush Intercontinental Airport has transported over 700,000,000 passengers to more than 170 U.S. and international destinations, making it one of the largest airports in the world. This, in turn, has generated tremendous economic benefits for the greater Houston area. Travelers to the region account for more than \$20 billion in annual sales. The airport also employs over 30,000 Houston-area residents and has created over 120,000 additional jobs in local industries. Many of these employees live in our district.

Bush Intercontinental Airport has likewise served as a hub for cargo shipments to the U.S. and Latin America. For four years in a

row, the airport has received Air Cargo World's "Air Cargo Excellence Award" for its facilities. It now handles more than 300,000 tons of freight annually, and this figure continues to grow. In November, the airport plans to open a new import facility for perishable freight, which will expand business in temperature and time-sensitive products.

Together with the Port of Houston, Bush Intercontinental Airport has helped to make Houston a truly international city and one of the leading ports of entry and export in the country. It serves as a model of success in international travel and shipping, and this level of accomplishment should be acknowledged.

I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 138 recognizing the 40th anniversary of George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

#### PASTOR CHARLES T. SEMBLY AND FIRST LADY PAMELA J. SEMBLY

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Reverend Charles T. Sembly and First Lady Pamela J. Sembly for their 25 years of faithful, dedicated service to Union Bethel A.M.E. Church.

Following in the footsteps of his father, the late Rev. Edgar L. James, Pastor Sembly earned his license to preach on March 17, 1971, and was ordained an African Methodist Episcopal Itinerant Deacon in 1978 and an Itinerant Elder in 1979. In 1982, Pastor Sembly was appointed Pastor of Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church in Knoxville, Maryland. During the mid-year Conference on October 24, 1984, Pastor Sembly was appointed to Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Pastor Sembly and Mrs. Sembly have provided noteworthy spiritual leadership in fulfilling their vision of growth and development at Union Bethel A.M.E. Church. During Pastor Sembly's tenure, the church established over 40 ministries and outreach programs to enhance the Randallstown community. Under his leadership, the church created a nonprofit Community Development Corporation to increase its social outreach and opportunities for service to the greater Northwest Baltimore County community. As local President of the Lillian M. Dorsey Senior Missionary, Mrs. Sembly established several on-going outreach programs, which include the Good Samaritan Ministry, the Senior Outreach Ministry and provided additional support to three area shelters.

Pastor Sembly is currently a Trustee and Member of the Finance Committee of the Second Episcopal District Washington Conference, and an Instructor of the Second Episcopal District Washington Conference Board of Examiners. Pastor Sembly conceptualized and developed the Six-Week Lenten Services with seven A.M.E. Churches and is a former Recording Secretary for the Second Episcopal District Washington Conference.

Mrs. Sembly is very active in the Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She currently serves as the President of the Lillian M. Dorsey Senior Missionary Society of Union Bethel A.M.E.

Church. She has served for more than 8 years as the Recording Secretary and the Treasurer of the Matilda Monroe Area. She was also the Editor of the "Bridge," the Second Episcopal District WMS Newsletter, and was elected a Delegate to the 15th and 16th Quadrennial Conventions.

Married for 35 years, Pastor Sembly and First Lady Mrs. Pamela J. Sembly have three loving children and six grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Reverend Charles T. Sembly and First Lady Pamela J. Sembly for their outstanding service to the Union Bethel A.M.E. Church and their continued commitment to enhancing lives in their community.

#### HONORING DEBORAH PEEPLES

### HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Deborah Peeples of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. Through Mrs. Peeples' public service and dedication to the community she inspires us all. In acknowledgement of her service and commitment to the advancement of the Democratic Party, Deborah has been selected to receive the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award from the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee.

Deborah has done a tremendous amount of work for the Town of Shrewsbury. She has served as an elected Town Meeting Member and member of the Shrewsbury School Committee. During this time she played an active role in four school building projects. Currently, Mrs. Peeples serves as the Treasurer for the Board of Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library. She founded and ran the Summer R.E.C.E.S.S. reading program which continues to this day. Deborah Peeples is dedicated to improving the community of Shrewsbury.

Deborah Peeples has been an active member and is the current Co-Vice Chair of the Town Democratic Committee. She has been involved in Democratic campaigns for a very long time, from leafleting for George McGovern in 1972 and more recently, campaigning for Hillary Clinton, Shannon O'Brien, Bill Clinton and Deval Patrick. I will be forever grateful to her for her friendship and hard work helping in my Congressional campaigns. Deborah is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis. Currently she serves as Executive Director of ELNA (Education and Leadership for a Non-violent Age) Collaborative, working with middle and high school students promoting leadership, civic participation and social activism.

Deborah's devotion to the betterment of our community and her commitment to public service enrich us all. In tribute to her outstanding service to the Town of Shrewsbury, I congratulate my friend, Deborah Peeples on receiving this award. I know all my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to her.

#### HONORING MRS. DEBRA JOHNSON

### HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize Mrs. Debra Johnson, Principal of Chamberlain Middle School and High School in Chamberlain, South Dakota. Mrs. Johnson was named South Dakota Middle School Principal of the Year by the MetLife/National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) National Principal of the Year Program. This award recognizes the achievements of secondary school principals like Mrs. Johnson who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession.

Mrs. Johnson has devoted 29 years to education, including more than 17 years as an administrator. One of her proudest achievements was combining separate buildings for grades 5-8 and grades 9-12 into a joint middle school and high school in Chamberlain, where staff can work together to address issues, implement effective teaching strategies, and design plans so that all students can achieve at their highest level. Mrs. Johnson recognizes the value of a well-rounded education beyond just the classroom and has been a strong supporter and advocate of quality afterschool activities. Her leadership, organization, and planning skills have served students, teachers, and fellow administrators well throughout her career.

I send best wishes and congratulations to Mrs. Johnson on this noteworthy recognition and thank her for her years of service as an educator in South Dakota.

#### RECOGNIZING HOLLAND CITY COUNCILMAN CRAIG RICH FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE HOLLAND CITY COUNCIL

### HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to congratulate Councilman Craig Rich on many years serving on the Holland City Council.

Craig Rich grew up in Holland where his family has lived since 1910. He is a 1972 graduate of Holland High School and holds a business degree from Davenport College. He and his father operated radio station WZND in Zeeland from 1971 through 1986. Since then he has been with the Grand Rapids Business Journal, a weekly business-to-business newspaper in Grand Rapids, as advertising sales consultant and sales manager.

Craig was first appointed to the Holland City Council in 1982 at 28 years old and has since been elected in 1983 and re-elected in 1985, 1989, 1993, 1997, 2001 and 2005. Craig also served as Holland's Mayor ProTem from 1987 to 2007. His ward represents the true center of the city—bordered by 14th and 15th streets and Lake Macatawa on the north, 24th street on the south, River, Michigan and Central ave-

nues on the east and Graafschap Road on the west.

Craig is the Council's liaison to the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Board of Public Works. He is most proud of having decreased or maintained the general fund tax rate 17 times since being elected to office while, at the same time, maintaining or increasing the level of essential city services.

In addition to his service on the City Council, Craig is active at Christ Memorial Reformed Church. He is a founding member of Michigan Shipwreck Research Associates and a "master" level SCUBA diver.

He combines his love of local history and genealogy with scuba diving to research and document local area shipwrecks. He is the author of "For Those in Peril: Shipwrecks of Ottawa County" due to be published in 2009.

Craig and his wife Vickie have been married since 1975 and have two daughters; Allison, an English teacher in Florida, and Catherine, a student at Northern Michigan University.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 776 for the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009, if I had been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, On Wednesday October 14, 2009 I was unavoidably detained and missed one vote.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 768, a resolution expressing support for the designation of the month of October as "National Work and Family Month (Rollcall 775).

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITADEL

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, The U.S. News and World Report, in their publication titled "America's Best Colleges 2010", recently named The Citadel as the No. 1 best value among master's degree-granting colleges in the South. This is a tremendous recognition for the cadets, students, faculty, and administration of this esteemed South Carolina institution. In addition to being the best value, The Citadel was also named the No. 2 best public institution that offers a master's degree in the South and the No. 5 among all master's degree-granting colleges and universities in the South that offers a master's degree.

Born and raised in Charleston, I have been a longtime admirer and supporter of The Citadel. For 167 years, it has educated and built strong leaders in our military and civilian communities. It remains an important part of South Carolina's heritage of service. I know firsthand of its benefits with three brothers-in-law and two nephews who are graduates of The Citadel. I never cease to be amazed at the achievements of Citadel graduates, such as Brigadier General Larry Nicholson who I met in Helmand Province of Afghanistan where he is leading our courageous Marines.

I am grateful to have known so many graduates such as Congressman J. GRESHAM BARETT and Congressman STEVE BUYER of this important institution and will continue to be a proud supporter. Under the leadership of its President, LTG John W. Rosa, The Citadel is a valued national institution.

#### PAKISTAN-U.S. RELATIONS

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I have been a strong supporter of the friendship between the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the United States, and I have supported efforts to strengthen the bonds between the countries as well as efforts that address our mutual security interests.

The current economic situation is the primary challenge to achieving these mutual goals.

Unfortunately, the economy of Pakistan is under considerable stress right now. The value of the rupee is at a historical low relative to the dollar, and international reserves have declined by \$7 billion—more than half—in one year's time.

Additionally, the current inflation rate is 25 percent and consumer prices are the highest they have been in over 30 years.

The U.S. wishes to disrupt and dismantle the existence of terrorist safe havens in Pakistan to bring stability and peace to the region.

As such, it is important to examine the root cause of terrorism, desperation. This desperation is best addressed by ensuring that U.S. foreign policy promotes worldwide economic stability.

We must lay the foundation of human security and capacity building which includes ensuring educational opportunities, economic and social justice, and physical and mental health care for everyone.

As such, I have not supported the current plans by the Administration to provide military training and defense articles to Pakistan.

The foundation of a peaceful society is rooted not in military might, but by ensuring that people's basic needs are met. This is the key component to achieve human security. In Pakistan, where approximately two-thirds of the people of Pakistan are living on less than \$2 a day, there is much that must be done to ensure that this key component to human security is achieved.

Additionally, I have vociferously opposed U.S. drone attacks on Pakistan. These attacks cause devastation to the innocent civilian population. I understand the opposition to the drone attacks by the government of Pakistan.

I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress to address this issue and pursue a dialog with Special Envoy Holbrook.

Some have proposed establishing free trade agreements with Pakistan. The current U.S. model for free trade is flawed. For example, labor and environmental protections are inadequate. With the current lack of stability in Pakistan it is difficult to imagine that these protections could be assured.

IN HONOR OF JOHN MARHEFKA,  
PENNSYLVANIA D.A.R.E. OFFICER OF THE YEAR

### HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Patrolman John Marhefka of Lower Burrell, Pennsylvania. He was recently named Pennsylvania's top Drug Awareness and Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Officer of the Year.

For twelve years, Marhefka has been dedicated to preventing illegal drug usage through D.A.R.E., a program where police officers go into schools to teach young people about the dangers of illegal drugs. The D.A.R.E. program encourages students to make good life decisions by warning them about the risks of substance abuse and violence. The relationships that develop between the officers and their students open new lines of communication and help to strengthen community ties.

While there are more than 1,000 D.A.R.E. officers throughout Pennsylvania, Marhefka is one that goes above and beyond what is expected of him. Over his time as a D.A.R.E. officer, he has taught over 700 Burrell students from kindergarten to 12th grade. Marhefka makes a genuine effort to form a relationship with each of his students. He is known for his participation in recess and school family fun nights. Most importantly, Marhefka gives students the opportunity to get to know him, increasing their comfort with local authorities and their trust in the police.

Madam Speaker, Marhefka's dedication to the D.A.R.E. program has given students the knowledge and confidence they need to avoid the temptation of peer pressure. I commend him for his dedication to the prevention of illegal drug use and for his outstanding commitment to promoting safety in his community.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT

### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the President's call to provide assistance to our nation's elderly, veteran and disabled citizens who will see no Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in their 2010 Social Security payments for the first time in over 40 years.

Since the Great Depression, Social Security has proven a vital safety-net program that has kept over half of our seniors from falling into

poverty. It has been adjusted annually according to inflation to maintain the purchasing power of beneficiaries since 1975. In my home district, over 95,000 people collect Social Security benefits. This program provides 40 percent of all income received by elderly people in the United States, and supplies significant financial support for individuals with disabilities.

Despite encouraging signs of economic stabilization, millions of vulnerable citizens continue to struggle in the wake of a recession that brought record housing foreclosures, job losses and bankruptcies. Particularly hard hit are older Americans who have seen the value of their assets and savings wiped out, forcing them to postpone retirement or reenter the workforce, if employment can be found.

We must ensure that the purchasing power of older and disabled Americans remains strong. To that end, I look forward to working with my colleagues and the President to enact policies that will help rebuild retirement savings, restore lost asset value and achieve long-lasting financial security and independence.

#### HONORING OSCAR GUSTAVE MAYER, JR.

### HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, Rep. JACK KINGSTON and I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Oscar G. Mayer, Jr., of Madison, Wisconsin. Mr. Mayer's death last July was mourned by his widow, Geraldine, his family, the Madison community and the celebrated company he, his father and grandfather built over the past 125 years. Rosalie Harrison Mayer, his first wife of 56 years, passed away in 1998.

Starting with Oscar Mayer & Co. in Chicago in 1936 as a production trainee, Mr. Mayer devoted his entire business career to the company his grandfather started in 1883. After the deaths of his grandfather and father, Mr. Mayer served as President and later Chairman of Oscar Mayer & Co., leading the company through one of the most productive periods in its history.

Although raised in Illinois, Mr. Mayer moved to Madison, Wisconsin in 1946, while serving as Assistant to the Vice President of Operations. Then in 1957, as company president, Mr. Mayer moved Oscar Mayer & Co.'s headquarters to the Wisconsin state capital. Once rooted in Wisconsin, Oscar Mayer's generosity and kindness were felt in every corner of the greater Madison community.

An impassioned philanthropist, Oscar Mayer never shied away from an opportunity to help his community. Mr. Mayer was instrumental in turning the old Capitol Theater on State Street into Madison's first civic center. Mr. Mayer was a strong supporter of the Madison Arts Center and Elvehjem Art Museum and helped found the Alexis de Tocqueville Society, which has gone on to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the United Way of Dane County. "Do the right thing," was Mr. Mayer's philosophy in business and he carried that into his personal life, donating time, money and services to various organizations and groups

throughout Wisconsin, especially those who shared his love for the outdoors and sought to protect it. Additionally, in 2007, he was the inspiration for the establishment of the Oscar and Rosalie Mayer fund for Pediatric Care at Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah, Georgia.

Oscar Mayer's work and charity were widely recognized by his community. He received Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from the University of Wisconsin—Madison in 1977, Beloit College in 1978, and later from Edgewood College in Madison in 1991. In 1990, Mr. Mayer became one of the first inductees into the Wisconsin Business Hall of Fame.

Oscar Mayer's devotion to his family, company, its employees, the state of Wisconsin and specifically the city of Madison has left a lasting impression. I join Rep. KINGSTON and the greater Madison community in honoring his life's work and loving spirit.

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MARY MORRIS LAWRENCE

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mary Morris Lawrence. As a premier photographer, trailblazer and free spirit, she helped shatter the glass ceiling for female professionals by becoming one of the first female

photojournalists ever hired by New York's Associated Press in November of 1936. Mary was also a vibrant inspiration to her family and friends as wife, mother and mentor. She passed away in her Oakland, California home on August 12, 2009, at the age of 95.

Over the span of her globe-trotting career, Mary was columnist and Hollywood photographer for New York's progressive tabloid PM, photojournalist for Look Magazine, and creator of a variety of award-winning projects. Her photo of composer Louis Hart even became a U.S. postage stamp.

Mary Morris Lawrence was born in Chicago, Illinois on March 27, 1914. She graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in 1936, and often attributed her distinct ambitions, creative prowess and "rebellious ideas" to the time she spent there. In the early years, colleagues described Mary as a hard worker with a knack for using her wit to gain access to great shots and poignant moments with her small Rolleiflex camera.

Mary spent six years in Hollywood during her first marriage with still photographer Ralph Steiner, with whom she had a daughter, Antonia Steiner. Her self-described aggressive nature and creative spirit helped her commingle with movie stars. Sunday magazine pieces for PM featured Mary's trademark, sleek, black-and-white portraits of silver screen luminaries. Her work included shots of Sophia Loren, Gene Kelly, Marilyn Monroe, Humphrey Bogart and many others.

Afterward, Mary returned to New York as a magazine freelancer, producing work for Life, Mademoiselle and other publications. She also

started an advertising business out of a Midtown brownstone.

In 1963, she married Harold Lawrence, producer for Mercury Records, and subsequently General Manager of the London Symphony Orchestra and Manager of the New York Philharmonic. The family settled in Oakland when Harold Lawrence was named president and General Manager of the Oakland East Bay Symphony in 1977.

Mary volunteered locally for the League of Women Voters, ERA, Oakland Potluck and Neighborhood Newsletter Task Force. She continued her work, photographing music legends like Michael Tilson Thomas and Calvin Simmons. She also became a creative partner in her husband's film documentaries, later devoting her photographic skills to occasional projects for friends.

Mary Morris Lawrence's tenacious zest for life will inspire generations to come. In her life she overcame many obstacles, including surviving a brain tumor in her fifties.

She recently celebrated her 95th birthday with friends at a belly-dancing restaurant, and undoubtedly, her convivial spirit will continue to be a powerful gift to the people she cherished most. She will be remembered for her unparalleled passion, wit and bravery.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors an incredible and beloved human being, Mary Morris Lawrence. We extend our deepest condolences to Mary's husband, daughter, goddaughter, family and friends. May her soul rest in peace.